FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SALT DELEGATIONS MEET IN GENEVA 23 FEBRUARY

LD231450Y Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 23, TASS--The delegations of the USSR and the United States to Soviet-American negotiations on limitation of strategic offensive armaments held a meeting here today.

SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO UN COMMITTEE

LD231504Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Seven socialist countries have made a proposal on disarmament at the UN Disarmament Committee in Geneva. Yuriy Shalygin comments:

The committee was presented with a comprehensive disarmament proposal. It is clear-cut and concrete, which in general is typical of all foreign policy initiatives by the socialist community. It not merely states that political relaxation should be accompanied and buttressed by military relaxation, which is an axiom repeated over and over again. The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community go further than that; they define real areas where joint action by states can stop the dangerous arms race and obtain a reduction in the arsenals.

As Leonid Brezhnev has pointed out in his recent speech, year after year there has been increasing efforts, step by step, in an attempt to find approaches to the solution of this problem, close to the most radical, general and complete disarmament. Such a radical approach could have long been found should the matter have depended on the socialist countries alone; for even Lenin called disarmament the ideal for socialism. In recent times the Soviet Union has made over 100 concrete proposals to ease military tension. As it happens, they are contained in the documents worked out by the countries of the socialist community. One of these documents is the one that is presented in Geneva. It calls for measures to curb the arms race and reaffirms the proposal to agree on a simultaneous termination by all states of the production of the nuclear weapon--atomic, hydrogen and neutron bombs or shells. This proposal is of crucial importance in view of Washington's intention to start the production of the neutron weapon, which is fraught with a new spiral in the arms and a greater danger of nuclear disaster.

Those who advocate the neutron bomb are trying to justify the intention to produce it by referring to a Soviet menace. Reality refutes this lie. It is worth recalling that back in 1946 the Soviet Union put forward the draft of an international convention to ban the production and use of atomic weapons of mass destruction. If the proposal had been accepted the world would have been rid of the nuclear arms race. In subsequent years too the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been making every effort to get the huge military appropriations rechannelled to peaceful investment. This intention keynotes the document submitted by the seven socialist countries at the United Nations Disarmament Committee in Geneva.

GLAZUNOV COMMENTS ON NEED FOR DISARMAMENT

LD242240Y Moscow in Hungarian to Hungary 2000 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Soviet people celebrated the 60th anniversary of its armed forces. Our commentator Viktor Glazunov writes:

When the Army of the Soviet Union was formed, Lenin described its role by saying that it should defend the achievements of the revolution and our Soviet rule. The Soviet Army has remained faithful to these orders. When Soviet soldiers have taken up the sword, it was only against those who threatened the freedom of the Soviet Union and achievements of socialism. This is well known also by enemies of the Soviet Union, those who continue to spread allegations of a Soviet threat, knowing full well that they are groundless. However, the myth is necessary for them, just as it was necessary for those who tried to strangle the Soviet rule at the very beginning.

The Soviet Army is strong. As the Soviet Union openly declares, it is a strength which would insure the immediate repulse of any aggressor. The essence of the military policy of the Soviet Union is based on the principle: Everything for successful defense, and nothing more. The Soviet Union does not need military superiority because it has no intention of attacking anybody. At the same time, the Soviet people say to those in the West who have been constantly concerned with military superiority not to try and scare the Soviet Union with new kinds of deadly weapons such as winged rockets, neutron bombs, and the like. The Soviet Union is capable of developing any weapons on which its enemies rely. I am sure you remember that some time ago atomic weapons, invented by Americans, were much relied upon. The Soviet Union warned against the threat of a new weapon and proposed to conclude an international ban on it. Unfortunately, the warning was not heeded and the Soviet Union was forced to reply by developing its own atomic weapons.

The Soviet Union never initiated the arms race, and will never do so. But it is obvious that the Soviet Union is unable to watch passively as others are arming against it. The fact that it is against the Soviet Union has not been hidden by anyone in the West. Fresh billions earmarked for armaments can only be explained by the alleged defense against the Soviet Union. All those allegations are a spiteful slander. The Soviet Armed Forces have never been used for aggressive purposes. The Soviet Union constantly states that it does not want to enter the road of competition in armaments because this threatens peace. The policy of the Soviet Union does not aim to gain superiority in armaments, but aims at reducing armaments and military confrontation. The policy has been expressed by concrete proposals. Recently, the Soviet Union proposed over 100 initiatives aimed at disarmament and halting the arms race. Let us mention only the last one. The Soviet Union stated that it is ready to conclude an agreement simultaneously halting the production of nuclear weapons by all states and reducing accumulated stock. The Soviet Union is also ready to conclude agreements on stopping all nuclear tests. The Soviet state also proposes to the West mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons. The Soviet Union is also ready to sign fresh agreement with the United States on limitation of strategic weapons, naturally on principles of equality and mutual security.

Disarmament is the ideal of socialism, because socialism needs peace in order to develop. It is the essence of our socialist society that determines the peaceful course of the Soviet foreign policy. Our party and people have always been faithful to the cause of peace, and will continue to be, said Leonid Brezhnev at the ceremony at which he received the Order of Victory. For us, the cause of defense of peace is the defense of socialism, and defense of the shining future of all people of the world.

WEST IMPEDES ADOPTION OF FINAL DOCUMENT AT BELGRADE

LD261204Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Commentary by Igor Sedykh, observer of ZA RUBEZHOM]

[Text] The Belgrade meeting is in its final stages. The exchanges of view that have taken place have resulted in much that is useful in implementing the agreements of the final act. But the stand taken by the United States and some of its NATO allies, including Britain, especially lately, gives grounds for believing that there still remain many obstacles to the adoption of a final document. Who is to blame for such a situation? Rightwing elements in the West, and with them the British conservatives, blame the Soviet Union. The DAILY TELEGRAPH, for one, claimed that Russia is determined to get the human rights provisions of the final act abolished. The facts, however, indicate something quite different. From the very beginning the West countries have followed the lead of the American representative, Arthur Goldberg, and tried to revise the final act, improve it by inserting new provisions. To this end a terrific fuss was raised for propaganda purposes about human rights. At the same time, something like three dozen proposals were submitted--proposals that so clearly were designed to legalize interference in the internal affairs of other countries that their authors made no secret that they had no thought of them being adopted by consensus. That it was purely a propaganda exercise was something that even senior officials did not bother to hide. As Arthur Goldberg wrote in the FINANCIAL TIMES, he regarded the first half of the Belgrade meeting successful despite the failure of the second half. The paper says that the foreign secretary, Dr Owen, shares this view. And now, faced with Soviet opposition, they have to give up the attempts to draft what they call a worthwhile document.

It is true the Belgrade meeting has not produced any decision that would run counter to one of the basic principles of the final act which clearly states that interference in each other's internal affairs is impermissible. Nor could it have produced anything like it. What it should and could still lead to is to tangible confidence-building results on the continent, for the strengthening of the process of relaxation and to wider peaceful cooperation between states. Actually efforts in this direction are envisaged in the Soviet draft of the final document. It lists proposals on which agreement between all participants in the Belgrade meeting already exists. This is the agreement: to hold the next such meeting in Madrid in 1980; to hold special consultations in January of next year on the strengthening of security and confidence-building measures in the military field; on holding a forum on scientific problems in Bonn and a conference on Mediterranean issues; and a number of proposals for widening cooperation in the fields of cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

It would seem to me that such a document is worth signing since if all the listed measures were put into practice it would enhance the cause of relaxation much more greatly than all the moanings of the so-called champions of human rights.

Now it's hard not to be surprised when you find a paper like the DAILY TELEGRAPH championing relaxation of tension and the final act--a paper that slammed into the government for signing it and one that never lets slip an opportunity to attack relaxation. But its stand probably betrays more than anything else those who so assiduously accuse the Soviet Union of trying to torpedo the Belgrade meeting. Those people see relaxation only as an instrument that could help them split Soviet society from inside. The Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, stated quite plainly: We shall not tolerate interference in our internal affairs from anyone or on any pretext. There can be no normal development of relations on such a basis. The Soviet Union is consistently abiding by the commitments it assumed when it signed the final act. The FINANCIAL TIMES had to acknowledge that our country invites Western observers to its military exercises and that between Helsinki and Belgrade two-thirds of the outstanding issues in the field of human contacts were resolved.

Nor is the Soviet Union trying to revise the final act. It's prepared to continue the review of its implementation in Madrid.

In Belgrade, too, the Soviet Union had demonstrated its loyalty to the idea of strengthening security and developing cooperation. That is something that cannot be said of the Western representatives who have followed the lead of the circles that first tried to prevent any conference in Helsinki and then later did all they could to wipe out its results.

PRAVDA CITES GDR DELEGATE TO MBFR TALKS ON WEST'S STANCE

LD271405Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent I. Melnikov report: "A Realistic Approach Is Essential"]

[Text] Vienna, 24 February--The first month of the latest round of the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe is ending. The 16lst plenary session, addressed by Ingo Oeser, head of the GDR delegation, was held in the Hofburg Palace yesterday. Your correspondent asked the GDR delegation head to comment on the course of the present, 14th round of the talks.

"The extension of the relaxation of tension to the military sphere and disarmament are regarded as key issues by the socialist countries," the envoy said. "They are assisting to solve these issues by every means, naturally believing that the reduction of military potentials must take place only on the basis of reciprocity, without prejudicing the security of any side. The recognition by all talks participants of the military equilibrium that really exists in central Europe would be a basis for conducting a dialog successfully. But the West is refusing, on a specious and prejudiced basis, to acknowledge the approximate parity in the correlation of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO states.

"The NATO states' demands that the other side make reductions that are several times greater, serve a single aim: altering the correlation of forces in their favor. The West's rejection of the Warsaw Pact delegation's proposal not to increase the numbers of armed forces for the period of the talks again proves the unconstructiveness of the NATO position. The Western strategists are provocatively disregarding the people's will when they intensify their own military potential and seek to force the neutron bomb into their European arsenals.

"The socialist countries' position is a clear alternative to the NATO course," Oeser said in conclusion.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD2617l4Y Moscow International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Weekly "International Observers Roundtable" with Anatoliy Ivanovich Ovsyannikov, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio; Spartak Ivanovich Beglov, political observer of the NOVOSTI press agency; and Prof Georgiy Ilich Mirskiy]

Disarmament Agreement

[Text] [Ovsyannikov] Good morning, comrades. Last week, in a festive atmosphere, the Soviet people and our friends abroad celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. That celebration was one more demonstration of the might of our country, and also a demonstration of the consistent course of the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union. It confirmed the strategic line of the Soviet Union toward insuring universal peace, the security of the people and complete and universal disarmament in accordance with the peace program adopted at the 24th congress and further developed at the 25th CPSU Congress. Let me recall what Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said when he received the Order of Victory: If detente continues and if other states prove willing for disarmament, we will not drag our heels. We are persistently and consistently--and more actively every year--searching for an approach to the solution of that problem leading to full and universal disarmament. A new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms can undoubtedly be an important step toward solving that problem. What is being done to prepare that agreement, and what are the prospects of it being signed? I'll ask you, Spartak Ivanovich, to tell us about this, inasmuch as you recently returned from the United States where you discussed the problem with many American public figures.

[Beglov] Yes, just as we were meeting representatives of the American public under the aegis of the national United Nations Associations, an article in the 11 February issue of PRAVDA appraised the present state of the talks on the limitation of strategic arsenals; and it should be said that the disarmament question was at the center of our discussions in a small town near New York. Therefore, it was particularly interesting to compare the official Soviet viewpoint with our observations, colored by our unofficial exchange of opinions with Americans.

Let me remind you that the PRAVDA article drew particular attention to the contradictory tendencies existing in the United States, one of which perceives the importance and necessity of the speedy conclusion of a strategic arms limitation agreement, while the other reflects the intention to delay that agreement and, if possible, to wreck it altogether. Those who express this tendency have been stepping up their popular pressure on the government and public opinion, and are calling for amendments to the agreement that would give the Pentagon a free hand in the development of new weapons systems. The influence of these tendencies was noticeable in the remarks of the Americans we talked with at the meeting I mentioned. On the whole, the impression we got was that wide circle of Americans retain a profound interest in the ultimate success of the Soviet-American talks; and many of the Americans emphasized that the consistent Soviet initiatives toward normalizing relations with the United States have opened up the real prospect of such a new strategic arms limitation agreements.

At the same time, some of the Americans who spoke to us also tried to make use of the notion currently being discussed in the United States that Soviet intentions are unclear. The PRAVDA article, like many previous authoritative statements by Moscow, time and again refuted this fanciful thesis. There is no lack of willingness on our part to carry those talks to a successful conclusion, Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed shortly before the new year. Consequently--and this is what we made clear to our partners in the discussion--now is the time for Americans to take another close look at those at home who are trying to divert them from the course on which they have embarked.

[Ovsyannikov] Spartak Ivanovich, it's interesting that the term "shadow cabinet" has recently begun to appear in the American press. It is being used in connection with the distribution of roles among U.S. politicians in questions of international relations, particularly relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Could you tell us what is actually meant by this expression "shadow cabinet"?

Well, we know that "shadow cabinet" usually refers to the situation in one of the bourgeois countries in which the opposition party forms a kind of second opposition government. But in the present case, the so-called American shadow cabinet includes representatives of both parties, Democrats and Republicans. It is a group of top men from the military-industrial complex--so-called "arms experts". They not only feel called upon to oppose or criticize the proposed agreements, but they also feel that they have the right to advise on behalf of the military-industrial complex and thereby defend the interests of the arms manufacturers. The real intention behind this shadow cabinet was fully revealed when various memorandums and reports began to circulate in the corridors of power, as they say in America, and in the press. They are aimed at proving the need for the aforementioned tampering with the established Soviet-American positions on the foundations of an agreement. In various versions they all agitate for, on the one hand, the arbitrary limitation of certain Soviet weapons systems, and on the other hand, complete freedom for the United States in developing a whole range of strategic components. For example, they are pressing for the right of the United States--contrary to the established limitations--to deploy long-range cruise missiles on any type of aircraft. Attempts are being made to end limitations on sea and land-based cruise missiles, to increase their established range and to obtain a free hand in the development of this weapon. Maneuvers are being made to create loopholes which would allow cruise missiles on the territory of the United States' NATO partners, and so on in the same vein. What is the psychological design behind the shadow cabinet? It is, indeed, difficult to convince sensible people that it is legitimate to go back to the positions of superior power, if the United States and the Soviet Union have already agreed to the principle of equality and equal security as the basis of the talks. After all, if you think about it, behind that principle is the realization of the impossibility of continuing on the brink of nuclear war. The intention of the shadow cabinet--the opponents of detente--is once again to accustom American public to thinking the unthinkable: namely, that another spiral of the arms race can be allowed. This would be the most expensive spiral in terms of cost and of the burden it would put on the states and, at the same time, the most uncontrollable in terms of the nature of the weapons and the obstacles to disarmament that it could create. Clearly the utlimate aim of this brainwashing is to represent cruise missiles, the MX mobile missile system and the neutron bomb as necessities of life. In reality, what lies behind it is this: The war industry, economists estimate--and this is one of the things the Americans told us--is getting guaranteed, long-term orders worth a total of up to $250-300 billion.

[Ovsyannikov] Spartak Ivanovich, evidently there are not only economic motives behind all this, but probably a political aspect as well.

[Beglov] Yes, and it is noteworthy that the Americans, possibly without realizing it, have christened these people with the apt name, "shadow cabinet." They really are shadows of the past--heirs to the cold war. But, all the same, they are a force to be reckoned with, and now these circles have led the United States to the crossroads where the following question is being decided: Will America take the path laid by the wisdom of its statesmen, or will it turn aside into the impasse of an uncontrollable arms sprial? That is why the PRAVDA article, with its call to the U.S. leaders to measure up to their historic responsibility for the fate of peace and the cause of disarmament, could not leave anyone indifferent on the other side of the Atlantic. We said how closely and attentively the Americans read the presentation of the Soviet position, and pondered every argument of the analysis. They cannot fail to understand that the position of the hawks has no chance of success. The Soviet Union has once again confirmed with the utmost clarity that the new agreement on limitations effectively curbing the strategic offensive arms race must consistently embody the principle of equality and equal security of the sides.

[Ovsyannikov] There are various Soviet disarmament initiatives and concrete measures to deepen detente. It is enough to recall the constructive efforts of the Soviet delegation in Belgrade, which is striving, despite obstructions by the representatives of the United States and some of their NATO allies, to bring the meeting to a successful conclusion. We may also recall the active participation of the Soviet Union in preparatory work for the convening of a special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. Our country is trying to strengthen cooperation and the friendship of people and wipe out hotbeds of conflict in the interests of peace and justice. The Soviet-Libyan and Soviet-Syrian talks held in Moscow are a vivid confirmation of our efforts to achieve these aims.

Middle East

[Mirskiy] Yes indeed, great importance for the development of the Near East situation lies in the visit to Moscow by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and by Major Jallud, one of Libya's leaders. After all, they are representatives of what is called the rejection front--to be more accurate, it is now called the Front of steadfastness; in Arabic, it is Jama'at as-Sumud. The front of steadfastness is the front of opposition to President as-Sadat's separate and capitulationist maneuvers. In the Arab world, the clear recognition has recently grown that all these maneuvers--all these attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the American fashion, behind the backs of the Palestinian people and of Syria, in circumvention of Geneva and of the Soviet Union--are not only treacherous but completely barren. Take what has been happening recently: A complete standstill, so to speak. Either they are waiting for Begin to come to Egypt for talks with As-Sadat, for Carter to meet King Husayn in Teheran, or they are waiting until As-Sadat goes to Washington. Now it is reported that Begin will go to America next month; then they will say that they have to wait until after the U.S. mid-term elections, since it is clear that this year the U.S. administration can exert no pressure on Israel. That means time is being dragged out, while new aims are being devised and new maneuvers developed, in order to drag all this out with no particular hope. For the Egyptian president, it is completely obvious that all this standing still and all these eternal trips are meant to hide the fact that he has won nothing.

The Western press is now writing a good deal about how As-Sadat and Begin appear to have achieved mutual understanding. It is even being said that they have much in common regarding class. Indeed, both are spokesmen for rightwing, bourgeois circles. As-Sadat has created something like a bourgeois counterrevolution in Egypt and achieved a change of regime, and Begin is pursuing an even more extreme rightwing course then the previous government; both are anticommunists, and yet they cannot manage to reach any king of real separate peace.

It is apparently significant that the Zionist leaders themselves are not very interested in a settlement, because if they were interested even in a separate peace with Egypt, let alone a separate treaty, then they would at least give up the Israeli settlements on the Sinai Peninsula. The Western press asks with complete astonishment why they need settlements on the Sinai Peninsula. And indeed it is meaningless to say that they will conclude a treaty, if only with As-Sadat, that they have to give As-Sadat a helping hand, and that they will not find anyone--both they and the Americans realize this--better than As-Sadat. Thus it would appear that they have to make at least some trifling concession and agree to the liquidation of those Israeli settlements on Sinai. But they won't even do that. And the thought naturally arises that perhaps they have no interest in any settlement at all. In this context, I remember the book Israel and the Arabs by the French author Maxine Rodinson, who writes bluntly that a lasting peace could be the salvation of the Israeli nation. But for Zionism it would be the beginning of the end because the Zionist leadersnip lives on tension, on this constant war, with the possibility of mobilizing resources from around the world, of pulling in finance and encouraging immigration to Israel and so on. However, if there were lasting peace and permanent borders, the Zionist leadership would lose all those advantages.

Be that as it may, that is one aspect which hinders the conclusion of a separate deal, while the other happens to be bound up with what I was saying at first: the existence and present consolidation of that front of steadfastness, the front of counteraction, which unites important and considerable countries--Syria, Libya, Algeria, Democratic Yemen and the Palestinians, the PLO. And of course their stance, their steadfastness, includes such countries as Saudi Arabia, whose stance is extremely important for Egypt. This pressure from the Arabs prevents what the Israeli and Egyptian leaders might like to do if they were left to themselves. In this deadlocked situation, people are naturally saying: All right, something has to be done. As Comrade Brezhnev said in his speech at the meeting with President al-Asad: Is it not time to stop the unprincipled political maneuvers in the Near East which imperil the Arabs interests and to return the settlement process to the Geneva conference?

[Ovsyannikov] Here we should evidently discuss the U.S. stance on the conclusion of such a separate deal.

[Mirskiy] Its attitude is complex and contradictory. On the one hand, since As-Sadat has now become its client and ally, it is of course interested in helping him out of the predicament in which he placed himself after his trip to Israel. But on the other hand, as the Western press writes, the Zionist lobby is paralyzing President Carter and the U.S. administration is almost like a prisoner of this pro-Israeli lobby in Congress. It is hard to expect anything, especially in an election year.

[Beglov] Elections are in the offing, and because [speaker interrupted]

[Mirskiy] Yes, elections are in the offing, so that in this regard it's hard to expect anything. The Americans themselves have let As-Sadat know that he should not bank on any serious pressure on Israel. But how did they compensate him? They gave him--or rather promised him--50 aircraft. At the same time they gave aircraft to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

[Beglov] They gave Egypt a worse class of aircraft.

[Mirskiy] They gave Egypt worse ones and fewer, but I must say that the Israeli press kicked up a great deal of fuss over this. That is understandable; it is even to their advantage to some degree. The fact that the Arabs are being given American aircraft means, they say, that Israel's entire strategic position has to be reviewed. It is, I repeat, even to their advantage to some degree; it justifies their present harder line toward the Arab countries. At the same time, it does not change the strategic situation and the balance of military power.

[Beglov] Yes, it is propaganda.

[Mirskiy] Yes, but by and large it has to be said that many in the West also note that, at a time when the United States has allegedly assumed the role of peace broker and insists that it is in fact the major force for peace, it is also sending hundreds of aircraft to the Near East, which can in no way be reconciled with an aspiration for a peace settlement.

[Ovsyannikov] Well, on the whole is the situation still deadlocked?

[Beglov] Yes, the development of events...

[Mirskiy] A more complete deadlock than ever before. It is completely hopeless now, if one means the way they are going about it.

[Ovsyannikov] But at the same time, what happened in Moscow seems to indicate a solution to the deadlock, and it is no coincidence that on his return home President Al-Asad said: No Near East settlement is possible without Moscow. This means that many things are still the same. The issue cannot be settled, a peace settlement cannot be reached by unilateral actions in circumvention of either the well-known UN resolutions--the Security Council decisions--or of that integral formula for a comprehensive peace settlement which can, only be reached at the peace conference in Geneva.

At the same time, Georgiy Ilich, I would like to know your view on this question. I have noticed that in the United States such an unimaginable clamor was raised over what is called the As-Sadat initiative that people simply started to lose their grip on what was really happening in the Near East, what realistic paths existed and how events should be assessed. This arrangement or orchestration of commentaries on events in the Near East and Africa is typical of American propaganda today. Everything happening in the Near East in the way of unilateral initiatives is painted in bright colors as a kind of action for peace. And in contrast, the other events in the Horn of Africa, for instance, are painted in black and dark colors as a kind of action which shatters peace or threatens world peace. Many kinds of insinuations are being made on the Soviet Union's position in this conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. How do you view this attempt by American propaganda to contrast these different things?

Horn of Africa

[Mirskiy] I think that all this clamor, this whipping up of tension now taking place in the West over the events in the Horn of Africa, all these attempts to dramatize the situation and portray it as a big threat to peace, and even to indict the Soviet Union, are largely artificial. I would say that, on the contrary, the situation there is presently developing toward normalization and has been over the past few weeks. In other words Ethiopia's military superiority is gradually starting to take effect, and the aggressive Somali forces are gradually starting to retreat, to be driven out of the Ogaden. In other words, things are going the way they should, the normal way. Western observers believe that, on the whole, a turning point in the war has been reached, and it appears that in time the Ethiopian forces and militia will free their territory and reach the national border. It is obvious that they do not intend to cross that border despite all the words to that effect. At that point in fact, everything will be normal. This means that events, I repeat, are moving toward a normalization of the situation. It is intriguing that, there was none of this fuss before, when the Somali forces entered and occupied almost 90 percent of the Ogaden; there was no fuss about it. It was not deemed to be a threat of war, nor was it thought that a dangerous hotbed was arising. It was considered understandable that Somalia had undertaken these actions, you see. But why in fact should Somali troops occupy the territory of the Ogaden? The Somalis put forward the pretext that allegedly this is ancient Somali territory. It must be said that the Ogaden is a province named after one of the Somali tribes which has never been part of the Somali state. It consists of desert, where tribes lead a nomadic existence. One season they drive their cattle eastward and the other season westward.

There is no clearcut border, and even if a portion of these tribes speaks the Somali language, there are quite a few states in the world containing national minorities whose larger proportion lives in a neighboring state. What would happen if each undertook military attempts to tear away the territory where this national minority, belonging to its nation, resided? However, the point is something else: While Emperor Haile Selassie ruled, the Somalis did not attack Ethiopian territory, although in principle they had been saying for a long time that they wanted to annex the Ogaden. For the sake of understanding, let me remind you that when Africa was liberated, the question arose of what to do about borders. Should those borders which existed at the time of liberation be preserved, or should an attempt be made to impose new ones in accordance with the ethnic ties, language, and so forth? All the leaders of the African states unanimously concluded that it would be best to leave the borders as they were. Otherwise there would be wars there for hundreds of years. Each tribe would be demanding its own state, and so forth. Thus Somalia is the only state in Africa which did not agree to and did not sign this charter of African unity, because it had decided to unite--as it claimed--all Somali territory. But as I was saying, it turns out that while the emperor ruled they did not attack. However, then the Ethiopian revolution occurred. The Ethiopian revolution has been battling, on the domestic front, counterrevolution and bourgeois, landowning, feudalist reactionary forces and, on the Eritrean front, the Eritrean separatists--this is also a grave situation--which in these conditions is a stab in the back. When the majority of the Ethiopian Armed Forces were busy with the struggle against armed detachments of counterrevolutionaries and against the Eritrean insurgents in the north, at this moment the Somalis dealt their blow. They believed that precisely this situation of disorder, trouble and very nearly the disintegration of state organization was suitable for the implementation of their designs. In other words, they made use of these grave difficulties.

But now, of course, everything is being sorted out, as I was starting to say, and it is clear that the Ethiopian revolution will not give up this territory. We should understand what Somalia is claiming: The British magazine ECONOMIST has written that if Ethiopia were to agree to everything that people wish to tear away from it, it would lose 70 percent of its territory and 45 percent of its population. Could a revolutionary government agree to it? Of course not.

I think it is important here to mention the following point: For the enemies of revolutionary Ethiopia this national question, this national-territorial question and the ethnic question have now become a means for achieving a weakening of the revolution on the social level--that is, of striking at the revolution through this ethnic, territorial and national question. It is not a question of to whom the Ogaden should belong; I think that it is not all that important to the Western imperialist powers, for instance, who holds the Ogaden Desert. It is simply that if Ethiopia were to lose all these territories which are being claimed by the Somalis, the Eritrean separatists and so on, we would have to say that it would almost be the end of the Ethiopian revolution. It is clear that a revolution which is incapable of defending its borders and of holding the state together has very few chances of surviving. In reality, this is the design of those who would like to destroy the Ethiopian revolution. But we should say that the present situation is evidently such that these plans could not be realized, even though the Western powers--not so much by their own hand as by Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran--are arming Somalia, assisting it and supplying weapons...

[Syannikov] Although they say that they are not interfering...

[Mirskiy] Yes, they say that they are not interfering, but to all intents and purposes they are. In general As-Sadat does not deny this. Among other things, when he was promised the delivery of American aircraft, As-Sadat said that he does not intend to use them against Israel but against the allegedly existing, Soviet threat in the area of the Horn of Africa.

But I repeat that, despite all these deliveries of weapons and aid, things are not going very well for the Somalis at present, and in general this adventure undertaken by the Somali leaders is now just an adventure. It is precisely this which is causing the alarm and pessimism about which you were speaking, Spartak Ivanovich, because it turns out that the Ethiopian revolution is gaining from this and has managed to rally the broadest masses, to create a people's militia and to arm hundreds of thousands of people. It is precisely now, on the basis of patriotism, that this Somali adventure is being completely turned back upon those who wanted to destroy the Ethiopian revolution.

[Beglov] The Soviet Union has been acting altogether consistently in the Near East and in the Horn of Africa. It has been advocating a just settlement of the issues and of the territorial integrity of states as well as advocating that the matter of social transformations be guarded against the imperialist encroachments.

U.S. Persian Gulf Policy

[Ovsyannikov] We have been speaking about the buildup of arms arsenals, in the Near East and Somalia by the United States and certain other reactionary regimes. I would like to add that theoretically such a buildup might be observed in certain eastern parts of Asia.

A few days ago U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown expounded the new U.S. military doctrine for the Near East and Asia. In a speech assessed by local press as the toughest of all by the government, Brown laid special stress on American military interests in the Near East and Persian Gulf areas. He said that they go beyond the framework of the Arab-Israeli problems and are directly connected with oil. Inasmuch as this area contains the world's major reserves of oil, the Near East and the Persian Gulf cannot, the head of the Pentagon asserted, be separated from our security, the security of NATO and the security of our Asian allies. The United States, he said, intends to guard the extraction of oil andits delivery to consumer countries, and for this purpose plans to station in the Persian Gulf area of the Near East three divisions of its armed forces, which could react quickly to events in this area.

Far Eastern Militarization

The secretary also set out a broad program for stepping up American military might in Asia, which in his words must retain the United States' role as one of the main forces in the Pacific Ocean area. In order to justify the new round of the arms race, the head of the Pentagon reiterated the usual fabrication about a Soviet threat. In this connection, he referred to the firm United States commitments in the Pacific Ocean area and declared that the United States must be militarily strong both in Europe and Asia.

Let me remind you that quite recently Washington publicized a plan for the withdrawal of its troops from South Korea. Washington's present actions do not accord in the least with this publicity. This very same Secretary of Defense Brown has promised Seoul that the United States will increase the strength of its air force in South Korea, and a program has been announced for the sale of American military equipment, credits and free aid of $2 billion to strengthen the army of South Korea.

One can also add that the situation in the Far East is also being complicated by the remilitarization of Japan, which is being welcomed by the United States and Peking. Our listeners already know about the increase of Japan's military budget, and that representatives of the Japanese military recently traveled to China. Another trip to Peking is scheduled for March this year by an official representative of Japan's so-called Self-Defense Force. It is quite obvious that this will by no means facilitate an improvement of the situation in that part of the world.

As for our country, we unfailingly advocate the strengthening of peace and security in the Far East. In particular we consider that the conclusion of a Soviet-Japanese treaty on neighborliness and cooperation would be in accordance with this aim. As noted in a draft treaty which has been conveyed to the Japanese side, such a document would proclaim and set the seal on the development of our relations along the path of neighborliness and all-round mutually beneficial cooperation. This would be a big step toward international peace and security.

With that, dear comrades, we come to the end of or roundtable talk today. Thank you for listening. All the best.

U.S. STATEMENT 'DISTORTS' USSR HORN OF AFRICA POLICY

LD261240Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1128 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

["Statement by the U.S. State Department"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, 26 February TASS--The U.S. Department of State has published a statement in connection with Leonid Brezhnev's address at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

We, says the statement, have studied with interest what Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said about the state of American-Soviet relations. The positive appraisal which Chairman Leonid Brezhnev made of the results of the visit to the United States by Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, coincides with our own impressions, and we are happy that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium wishes to continue the exchanges with U.S. congressmen. Chairman Leonid Brezhnev's intention to work toward an early and mutually advantageous agreement to contain the race in strategic armaments coincides with our own intention. We are, like him, convinced that the signing of an (strategic offensive arms limitation) agreement can become an important step toward the further improving of relations between our countries.

The statement points to the role of the great powers in the settlement of so-called local conflicts. However, the State Department's statement distorts--not for the first time--the Soviet Union's policy on the events in the Horn of Africa. The Soviet Union has repeatedly stated that it is giving the Ethiopian Government assistance in defeating aggression by Somalia, supported by reactionary regimes, which has led to the occupation of part of Ethiopia's territory. The Soviet Union advocates a peaceful settlement of the conflict and the cessation of military actions in conditions of a withdrawal of the aggressor's forces from Ethiopian territory.

That is the essence of the Soviet Union's position. Any other interpretation of it is a deliberate distortion.

PENTAGON PAYS 'CLOSE ATTENTION' TO PERSIAN GULF AREA

LD242230Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

["Pentagon: 'New Accents' and Old Aims"--TASS headlines]

[Text] Washington, February 24 TASS--As the Washington POST reports today, "new accents" have appeared in U.S. policy in the Middle East, specifically in the Persian Gulf area. The newspaper explains to some extent the essence of these "new accents" and says that the Pentagon is more active than the State Department in policy formulation for the region.

The close attention given by the Pentagon to the Persian Gulf area is also confirmed by the fact that Defence Secretary Brown, speaking recently in Los Angeles, laid special emphasis on American "military interests" in the area. He said that the United States intends to safeguard the production of oil and its transportation to consumer nations and that therefore it is planning to deploy in the Persian Gulf area more than three divisions of its armed forces that could quickly react to any disturbances there.

Observers here took this statement as an indication that the United States does not rule out the possibility of armed intervention in the internal affairs of the countries in the area, should events take a turn unfavourable for Washington. The weekly U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT reported in this connection that the United States has already started forming crack quick-strike teams ready at first notice to be rushed to any area of the world.

Against this background, "the new accents" of American policy in the Persian Gulf area, mentioned by the Washington POST, look like the continuation of the old policy of keeping and, if possible, strengthening American influence in this oil-rich area of the world.

HALDEMAN BOOK VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF 'IMPERIALIST STRATEGY'

OW260617Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 24 Feb 78 OW

[Glebov commentary: "Anti-Sovietists' Deceptive Tactic"]

[Text] Haldeman, an official of former U.S. President Nixon's administration, was convicted of perjury and is now serving his sentence in a U.S. prison. However all indications point to the fact that Haldeman is still continuing to perjure himself even while in prison. He has written a book in which he frantically alleges that the Soviet Union allegedly proposed to the United States a joint nuclear attack against China in 1969. TASS has issued an unequivocal statement on this matter in which it points out that Haldeman's arbitrary allegation is "a lie from beginning to end." Only those who refuse to consider the facts, are given over to fantasies and are intent on sowing discord will repeat or spread such malicious fabrications.

The national security adviser at the time, Kissinger, and U.S. Secretary of State Rogers both immediately and firmly rebutted this clumsiest of lies aimed at slandering the Soviet Union. Haldeman's [words indistinct] has been proven by means of the following circumstances: In 1969 and afterward, the Soviet Government proposed to Peking the signing of several important agreements in order to normalize relations between our countries. These proposed agreements or treaties included renouncing the use of force, halting war preparations against each other and a mutual non-aggression pact. However, the Chinese side either refused the Soviet proposals or [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, the most reactionary imperialists in the United States have ignored these facts. They believe that it is advisable and necessary to go along with the fabrications of this imprisoned former high official and are vigorously launching provocative propaganda concerning these allegations.

But this is not surprising. As has been said in the U.S. press, since Mao Tse-tung smashed the tremendous Soviet-China monolith which caused such problems for the imperialists, one of these elements' main concerns has been to (?perpetuate) and worsen the split between the Soviet Union and China. Tense relations between the Soviet Union and China are an important part of the U.S. imperialist global strategy. The greatest hope and primary goal of the U.S. militarists is, of course, to incite a conflict between our two countries, a conflict in which the U.S. imperialists will stand on the sidelines and watch the two sides go at each other.

We cannot help but regrettably point out that Peking's anti-Soviet policy is of great benefit to imperialism and its (?provocative) schemes. When the Chinese spread the fabrications about the "threat from the Soviet Union" and the "danger of a Soviet surprise attack on China," the imperialist elements and [words indistinct] pay attention to this. The imperialist are willing to echo Peking's anti-Soviet fabrications. The mass media of the United States and other imperialist countries not only help spread the fabrications about Soviet aggression but also contribute to stirring up anti-Soviet hysteria and China's militant spirit.

For example, Western newspapers and radios have frequently carried sensational reports of Soviet secret plans to invade China and of Soviet military (?exercises) along the Soviet-Chinese border. At the same time, they have vigorously concocted stories and distorted facts about the Soviet-Chinese relations in an attempt to describe the situation in such a way that the friendship and cooperation between the peoples of our two countries do not have and cannot have a solid foundation due to certain historical and other conditions, and thus do not have and cannot have a bright future.

Following the death of Mao Tse-tung, the imperialist propaganda machine has obviously increased its dissemination in vilifying the Soviet policy toward China and, adhering to the notorious "Soviet threat," has concocted still more serious lies. In this connection, attention should be paid to the imperialist propaganda machine's clamor in view of the previously mentioned tremendous fabrication by Haldeman in vilifying Soviet policy. The anti-Soviet elements' timing in (?publishing) this news has also attracted people's attention. At this movement, it can be clearly proven that [words indistinct] will have an anti-Soviet effect on the work of the forthcoming Chinese National People's Congress. Concerning its policy toward China, the Soviet Union has always taken proletarian pacifism, good neighborliness, friendship and other principles as a foundation. The Soviet people have always stood side by side with the Chinese people during their revolutionary struggle and struggle for liberation and in the first 10 years when the PRC was building a socialist economic foundation. Since the worsening of Soviet-Chinese relations, which is not the Soviet Union's fault, the CPSU and the Soviet Government have made the utmost efforts to restore the friendly relations between our peoples and countries.

It is now the second anniversary of the convocation of the 25th Soviet Communist Party Congress. This congress once against expressed support for such efforts. In his summation work report at the congress, Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU, said: I would like to state here once again that with China, just as with other countries, we persist in the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit. At the same time, we are prepared to normalize our relations with China based on the principles of coexistence. He stressed that (?aside from this), we can confidently declare that Peking will receive an appropriate response from our side if it (?follows) a true Marxist-Leninist policy, gives up its policy hostile to the socialist countries and takes the road of cooperation and unity with worldwide socialism. This will open up and enhance the possibility of good Soviet-Chinese relations that correspond to the international principle of socialism. [words indistinct] decided by the Chinese side.

WORLDWIDE 'BASES STRATEGY' OF U.S. CONDEMNED

LD262108Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] As is reported from Manila, the local press is concerned with the American-Philippines talks on the two U.S. military bases in the Philippines. It is pointed out that these bases serve only the Pentagon's strategic interests in this region and do not have anything to do with the security of the Philippines. The statements of the Philippine press, our commentator stresses, are once more confirmation of the evaluation which progressive world public opinion has given to the "bases strategy" of the United States. Almost a quarter of the American Armed Forces, about 500,000 men, are constantly posted beyond the boundaries of the United States. Such a huge military contingent is deployed, in the main, on the territory of countries dependent on Washington and involved in different military blocs.

It is highly significant that almost all of these formations of the regular American Army are positioned in direct proximity to the borders of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Even official American data bears witness to the huge scale of the "bases strategy." According to this data, the Pentagon has almost 300 large air, naval and army bases and also about 2,000 other military installations. They are situated on the territory of 30 foreign states. The largest and most combat-ready contingent of the U.S. Armed Forces abroad is stationed in Europe. Here the Pentagon maintains more than 300,000 soldiers and officers and has more that 150 large military bases. The American troops have at their disposal in Europe more than 7,000 nuclear weapons and also numerous means for their delivery.

The most developed network of the U.S. military bases is in the territory of the FRG. In this country more than 20 large air bases are located. Moreover, the majority of them are complexes--several airdromes, including underground ones, and large depots with all possible provisioning services. In the FRG 200,000 American servicemen are deployed as well as more than 500 combat planes and the main U.S. arsenal for nuclear weapons in Europe. On the European Continent the Pentagon also has its bases in Britain, Belgium, Holland, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Greece and the Azores Islands, which belong to Portugal. The "bases" strategy spreads to the territory of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand and other countries. Pursuing a course of military presence on foreign territory the Pentagon is in essence making the people of these countries its hostages and coparticipants in aggressive U.S. policies.

USSR BROCHURE SEES 'ALLIANCE OF BOMB AND DOLLAR'

LD260735Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2129 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--The sinister alliance of the big business and the military command of the United States--of the bomb and the dollar--is one of the most characteristic traits of the notorious "American way of life," of the whole political structure of contemporary America, a brochure which came out in Moscow a few days ago under the title "Danger on the Right--the Pentagon" stresses. It lays emphasis on the fact that military spending has ceaselessly been on the increase in the United States in recent years. Thus, an all-time record total of appropriations--$118.5 billion--has been assigned to Defense Department in the budget for 1977-78, and even more is planned for next year--$130 billion. The United States is currently spending more on military needs in a year than during World War II. In the postwar years, more than $1.5 trillion has been spent on the arms race in America, including over $1 trillion in the past 10 years.

The military-industrial complex has entangled in its web literally all spheres of the life of the United States, the brochure says. It has sought to embrace considerable sectors of the population, making millions of people in the United States and even outside its confines dependent to some degree on its activity and prosperity. There are 122,000 large and small firms in the sphere of military production in the United States. It represents an important portion of the total output of such branches of American industry as aircraft construction and shipbuilding, radio engineering and electronics, chemicals and metallurgy and others. For a number of states military production has become the basis of their economy. The profits of the biggest monopolies specializing in the production of armaments and military equipment as a rule amount to 50-60 per cent.

As the brochure indicates, the activity of the military-industrial circles, of all the "war hawks" in the United States, is made easier by the position of a certain part of the bourgeois citizenry, the notorious "middle strata," which, led on by reactionary propaganda and dishonest politicians, consider that the "guarantees of the security of America" and even the destinies of the world are directly dependent on the build-up of the U.S. military might.

These short-sighted circles are to a certain degree maintaining the course "from a position of strength," believe those who scream about the "Soviet military threat" and the "growing danger from the USSR," and demand that the arms race be continued and even stepped up.

In present-day conditions, the brochure stresses, in their desire to adapt themselves to the international situation as it is being shaped, the militarist circles in the United States, the military-industrial complex, are widening foreign markets for military goods. They are hoping in this way not only to ensure preservation of the maximum level of military production in the United States, but also to strengthen their positions abroad, to support the antipopular blocs and alliances of their creation and to hamper the activity of peaceloving forces throughout the world. These activities of the dealers in death are creating a serious danger.

'REACTIONARIES' CAMPAIGN AGAINST PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

LD251332Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0745 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 25 February--TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev writes:

The reactionary forces in the United States are unremitting in their campaign to stop the U.S. Senate from ratifying the new treaties on the Panama Canal, already signed by the U.S. and Panamanian heads of government and endorsed by the Panamanian people in a nationwide referendum.

In the initial phase of the campaign, the adversaries of the new treaties went on to the offensive by demanding amendments, which boiled down to giving the United States the right to "defend" the Panama Canal after it is handed over to Panamanian control toward the year 2000 and to securing the right of priority transit through this international waterway for U.S. ships.

By such "amendments" to the treaties, U.S. rightwing forces planned to emasculate the new agreements and prevent the canal from being handed over to Panamanian sovereignty.

Of late this campaign has been growing increasingly ferocious. Those who oppose returning the canal to the Panamanian people are no longer concealing their intention of completely rejecting the new treaties and preserving the colonial status of the Panama Canal as fixed by the one-sided treaty of 1903. To that end, they have resorted to a trick long known in U.S. legislative practice--they have started spreading fabrications and false accusations against the Panamanian side in order to compromise it in the U.S. public's eyes. The Senate has been obliged to discuss a variety of slanders against members of the family of Gen Omar Torrijos, Panamanian head of government. After a 2-day secret session this week, the Senate concluded that these "accusations" were groundless.

Having received this setback, the opponents of the new treaties are now demanding an "open legal investigation" of their insinuations in an attempt to divert the Senate even further from a discussion of the heart of the matter--the issue of the ratification of the new treaties.

Moreover, the rightwing representatives, most of them Republicans, are trying to turn the ratification of the new treaties with Panama into a matter of party conflict and to make political capital out of it.

Another circumstance is worthy of attention. At a time when the political uproar is developing in the United States over the Panama Canal agreements, around 1,000 American paratroops have been urgently dispatched to the Canal Zone. According to the Panamanian press, they include specialists "of special purpose"--participants in the dirty war in Vietnam and experts in combatting "civil disorders." This action can only be seen as a provocation against the Panamanian side.

The Panamanian people's stance, which is shared by the entire progressive world public, is unambiguous: The canal must be returned to the complete sovereignty of the republic.

MURDER OF CHILEAN POLITICIAN IN WASHINGTON EXAMINED

LD262310Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1423 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

["The Junta Tries to Evade an Answer"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, 26 Feb--As could have been expected, the Chilean military junta has given a negative answer to the U.S. State Department request to question the two Chilean military personnel, J. Rose and A. Jara, suspected of complicity in the murder in Washingon of the prominent Chilean political and public figure Orlando Letelier. A spokesman for the junta in the U.S. capital stated that the Chilean authorities "have no evidence whether these two Chilean citizens exist."

The Pinochet regime did not even bother to explain how it is that it knows nothing about the "existence" of the two criminals, although the U.S. State Department has the official request of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, dated 17 August 1976 (approximately one month before the Lelelier murder), for U.S. entry visas for two Chilean citizens, Juan Rose and Alejandro Jara. It turned out that these two were agents of the Chilean DINA secret police who arrived in the United States to specifically organize an attempt on O. Letelier.

It is significant that the U.S. authorities allowed entry of Rose and Jara although they well knew that previous to this they had tried to enter the United States illegally on false passports. The two agents of the Pinochet secret police also left the United States without any hindrance.

O. Letelier, former minister in the Chilean Government of national unity, a prominent fighter for the restoration of freedom and democracy in Chile, was murdered in autumn 1976 in Washington. The bloody revenge on Pinochet's enemy brought forth an explosion of indignation in the United States and the whole world.

However, the U.S. authorities are in no hurry to start an investigation, despite the presence of a large amount of evidence showing the direct complicity of the Chilean secret police in this crime. Even this request from the State Department to the junta for permission to "question" Rose and Jara has been seen as a diversionary measure, to create the impression of Washington's interest in exposing the criminals, and thus calm public anger.

Such a "lack of hurry" of the U.S. authorities, as local observers point out, gives grounds to believe that the move against O. Letelier in Washington was carried out with the knowledge of the U.S. secret services. As is known, the CIA took a direct part in preparing and organizing the coup in Chile, and the Pinochet intelligence maintains active contacts with the CIA to this day.

COMMUNIST CITED ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN U.S.

LD251909Y Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 25, TASS--James Jackson, director of the Education Commission of the Communist Party of the USA, said racial discrimination in employment is still there in the USA and even increases. Speaking at a meeting in Chicago he emphasized that forty per cent of blacks are unemployed. They have not been able to find a job in the course of many years already.

COAL STRIKE DISPELS 'CLASS HARMONY' MYTH

LD250128Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--TASS commentator Gennadiy Ziborov writes: Strikes intensify in the USA, contrary to the "class harmony" myth which is being spread by American propaganda. An example of that is the strike by more than 160,000 mine workers of the Appalachian coal fields. The strike is a rare one by keenness and persistence and is the longest one in the history of the U.S. coal industry. The strike has been going on for the third month. The continually rising cost of living, arduous conditions of labour, unsatisfactory pensions and medical service compelled the mine workers to resort to strike, a tried and tested weapon, early in December last year. The United Mine Workers' union showed itself to be an organised force: strikers' pickets barred the way to the mines in all the coal-producing states of the country. The mine owners' stubborn unwillingness to satisfy the mine workers' just demands led to a prolongation of the conflict and a sharp reduction in coal reserves in east and mid-west states of the USA. As a result of that a real threat of thermal power stations coming to a standstill was created.

The press of monopolies launched a campaign to bait the mine workers, accusing them of avarice and obstinacy. Physical violence was also used against mine workers. In Alabama, Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Utah, "unidentified persons" opened fire on picketers and wounded several of them. On one of the days of the strike, picketers at a mine near Oakman, Alabama, were surprised to discover three helicopters overhead. At the same time more than 200 armed policemen attacked peaceful mine workers' pickets. As a result workers' blood was split. Many mine workers were injured. The conflict reached the greatest intensity at the present stage when the government intervened in the conflict on the side of employers. The White House threatened to invoke the anti-labour Taft-Hartley Act so as to compel the mine workers by means of a court order to return to work. By using the arms-twisting tactics, the White House is threatening to apply drastic measures to the United Mine Workers' union right up to the transfer of the mines under the control of the federal authorities. The days of President Truman, who had suppressed the railwaymen's strike by imposing martial law on railways, come to mind. The labour conflict in the U.S. coal industry shows the worth of Washington's high-sounding statements in "defense of human rights". Relying on the authorities' support, coal monopolies decline to satisfy the mine workers' demands. It is not without reason that the mine workers are called the labour guard. Undaunted by the terror, they remain on strike.

U.S. SUBVERSION OF USSR-PRC RELATIONS REPORTED

OW252340Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 0730 GMT 24 Feb 78 OW

[(Shchetelin) commentary: "Who Will Benefit From False, Provocative Imperialist Statements on Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Excerpts] For 10 years after the founding of the PRC, the Soviet Union supported and closely cooperated with China. This support and cooperation played an extremely important and indispensable role in radically transforming Chinese society. At that time, the Soviet Union was the first to give China badly needed economic aid by granting it loans totalling nearly 2 billion rubles to build 250 industrial enterprises. It also provided China with 24,000 books on science and technology.

The Soviet Union also helped China build 100 enterprises designed to produce military equipment, thus enabling it to solve an urgent problem--building an army strong enough to defend the fruits of revolution against imperialist subversion. Even today, they still form the nucleus of China's national defense industry.

The close Soviet-Chinese political and military alliance during the 1950's apparently irritated U.S. imperialism, its lackeys and all other reactionary forces. They viewed this alliance as an obstacle to the implementation of their long-range plan to split the big socialist family and to encroach on the fruits of revolution of the people of socialist countries. The imperialists and all other reactionaries felt extraordinarily happy when the Maoist leaders began discarding the socialist principle in the conducting their domestic and foreign policies and replaced it with a policy apparently aimed at straining Soviet-Chinese relations, and instigating chauvinism and anti-Soviet hysteria among the Chinese workers and people during the late 1950's and early 1960's. In this connection , former U.S. President Eisenhower said: We are delighted to see the dispute developing between the Soviet Union and China. The Washington POST stated: We must thank Chairman Mao because he broke the monolithic Soviet-Chinese unity, a unity which is harmful to us in every sense of the word.

During the 1960's and 1970's, the enemies of socialist countries and Soviet-Chinese friendship did everything possible to influence China's leaders to firmly maintain their anti-Soviet stand. Bourgeois experts on Chinese affairs also moved to support Peking's anti-Soviet sentiments. They acted as if they were really concerned with China's interest and its security.

Recently, the New York TIMES carried excerpts of a book by former U.S. presidential aide Haldeman, who is now in jail on perjury charges. His book contains a statement on Soviet-Chinese relations which is a climax to the provocations of the bourgeois propaganda machines. In that false statement, Haldeman said: In 1969, the Soviet Union suggested to the United States that they launch a joint nuclear attack against China. This statement was immediately denied by former U.S. Presidential Assistant for National Security Affairs Kissinger, who was actually in charge of U.S. foreign policy at the time, and former U.S. Secretary of state Rogers. Rogers said: There was absolutely no such thing.

Actually, the Soviet Union never suggested anything like that. The reason was that such action contradicts the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and all other countries including countries which have established and developed normal relations with China.

Since 1969, the Soviet Union has suggested on several occasions that China assume clear, firm and regular obligations to prevent each side from attacking the other. As everyone knows, the Soviet Union also suggested that both countries sign a special treaty renouncing the use of force to prevent either side from using armed forces and all kinds of weapons, including conventional and nuclear weapons and rockets, in any dispute. It is also well-known that the Soviet Union once suggested to China that the two governments jointly and openly declare that both sides have no territorial pretensions, and that the existing borders be resolutely maintained. All provocative, false statements by the bourgeois propaganda machines on Soviet-Chinese relations are obviously very outrageous and mean. They are made despite the fact that CPSU's principled policy aimed at improving Soviet-Chinese relations is firm and unwavering. Such hackneyed provocative statements have been made by the enemies of the Soviet and Chinese people, peace and socialism. Their aim is to sow the seeds of discord between our two countries and peoples and widen the gap between them.

ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS AT CPPCC SESSION DRAW RESPONSE

OW260820Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 25 Feb 78 OW

[Kalin commentary]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the first session of the Fifth National People's Congress of China, the first session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] was held in Peking. The CPPCC has not met for more than 10 years. During that period, Mao Tse-tung launched his notorious Cultural Revolution.

Hsu Te-heng, vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, in his speech at the first session of the CPPCC on 24 February, credited Mao Tse-tung with founding the CPPCC. In the same speech, he also said that the Gang of Four opposed Mao Tse-tung's line concerning the united front. These remarks were once again aimed at whitewashing Mao Tse-tung, the real culprit behind the various tragedies during the Cultural Revolution. Baring his fangs, Hsu Te-heng once again attacked the Soviet Union and babbled that we must follow the line of the 11th CCP Congress and develop the international anti-Soviet united front.

This kind of babbling shows that the speaker lacks sound reasoning. The proposal for establishing an anti-Soviet united front is absurd, because the Soviet Union is the fatherland of Lenin and the October Revolution. It is the world's first socialist country. It is embarked on opening the road to communism. Communists and national liberation movements as well as hundreds of millions of working people the world over all side with our country. Facts also show that Peking's anti-Soviet policy is incompatible with the interests of the Chinese people.

I would like to emphasize that our country has pursued a consistent and principled policy toward China. At the 25th CPSU Congress held 2 years ago, it was reiterated that the Soviet Union wishes to restore the friendly relations between the Soviet Union and China.

PONOMAREV, USSR DELEGATION DEPART FOR BUDAPEST

LD2610402 Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 26, TASS--A delegation of the CPSU today left Moscow for Budapest to take part in a regular conference of secretaries of the central committees of the fraternal parties of the socialist countries.

The delegation includes alternate member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Boris Ponomarev and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Zimyanin and Konstantin Rusakov.

CPSU Delegation Arrives

LD261438Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1410 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Budapest--A delegation of the CPSU arrived here today for the latest conference of secretaries of fraternal parties of the socialist countries. Its members include Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and secretaries of the Central Committee.

The delegation was met at the airport by Andras Gyenes and Imre Gyori, secretaries of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee. Vladimir Pavlov, USSR ambassador in the Hungarian People's Republic, was in the welcoming party.

RUSAKOV RECEIVES YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW

LD242245Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1129 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Joze Smole, the Yugoslav ambassador in the Soviet Union, called on Konstantin Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Moscow today. In a friendly conversation views were exchanged on the further development of cooperation between the LCY and the CPSU.

Demichev, Smole Meet

LD212335Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1126 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, today received in Moscow Joze Smole, Yugoslav ambassador to the Soviet Union.

During the talks, the present cultural cooperation between Yugoslavia and the USSR was positively assessed. The forms and prospects of further cooperation between the two countries in this field were also discussed.

LUXEMBOURG LEGISLATORS BACK IN MOSCOW AFTER USSR TOUR

LD231652Y Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 23, TASS--A delegation of Luxembourg's Parliament, headed by President of the Chamber of Deputies Rene van den Bulcke, have returned to Moscow from a tour of the USSR.

Luxembourg's parliamentarians were received today by Babken Sarkisov, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They had a friendly talk. During the talk it was noted that the development of interparliamentary contacts serves the interests of the peoples. The head of the delegation of Luxembourg's parliamentarians expressed profound gratitude for the cordial reception and hospitality accorded to the delegation in the Soviet Union.

On the same day the members of the delegation met with the chairmen and members of the permanent commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet's chambers. Luxembourg's parliamentarians learnt about articles of the USSR's Constitution, the structure and activities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

See Supreme Soviet's Ruben

LD251416Y Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--A delegation of Luxembourg's Parliament headed by President of the Chamber of Deputies Rene van den Bulcke visited the Moscow Soviet. They familiarised themselves with the capital's municipal economy and prospects for its development.

A luncheon was held on behalf of the chairmen of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Present at the luncheon was Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vitaliy Ruben.

End Moscow Visit

LD251420Y Moscow TASS in English 1341 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 24, TASS--The delegation of Luxembourg Parliament, led by Rene van den Bulcke, president of the Chamber of Deputies, left Moscow today. The delegation has been in the Soviet Union on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

DANISH PREMIER IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSES EUROPEAN PICTURE

LD242150Y Moscow TASS in English 2132 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 24, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports:

Danish Prime Minister A. Jorgensen has ended his official visit to the USA where he held talks with President J. Carter, Secretary of State C. Vance, Defence Secretary H. Brown, and other leaders of the U.S. Government.

As was said in the White House statement, the discussions covered a wide range of economic and political matters involved in the United States' relations with the countries of the European Community as well as other international problems.

Much attention was given to a program for further building up NATO's military strength. The United States expressed "satisfaction" with Denmark taking an active part in carrying out this program.

The American press says that A. Jorgensen's visit to the USA is taking place at a time when the United States' relations with the European Common Market countries have worsened considerably in the monetary and commercial fields. Having lost its foreign trade positions, Washington is openly putting pressure on the West European states to make them lift restrictions on imports from the USA.

Speaking at a press conference in Washington, A. Jorgensen expressed displeasure with the reluctance of the U.S. Government to take active steps to support the dollar whose rate of exchange is declining. The depreciation of the American dollar holds a great danger for the currencies of the West European states, he said.

A. Jorgensen spoke of the need for the capitalist states to coordinate their efforts in combatting inflation and unemployment. This was also received here as a reproach to the USA which is trying to shift the burden of the crisis to Western Europe.

It followed from the Danish prime minister's statement that his country did not approve of Washington's interference in the internal affairs of Italy with a view to keeping the communists out of the Italian Government. The people of Italy, he said, should make their choice and they are not to be told whom they should have in their government, A. Jorgensen said.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER CITES COOPERATION WITH USSR

LD241655Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Helsinki, 22 February--The friendship, cooperation and mutual aid treaty signed between the Soviet Union and Finland in 1948 laid the foundation for the favorable development of Soviet-Finnish relations, Finnish Foreign Minister P. Vayrynen said. Speaking at a seminar on questions of developing trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Finland in the city of Joensuu, he noted that an extensive network of agreements aiding the expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous cooperation with our country has been concluded in the spirit of this treaty and free, dynamic development of economic relations--development based on equality--has been created.

Stressing the great importance of the long-term Soviet-Finnish program for developing and deepening trade and economics, industrial and scientific and technical cooperation until 1990, the minister said that the implementation of this program and the utilization of the potential which it provides are particularly urgent for Finland.

FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS PLENUM

LD252015Y Moscow TASS in English 1919 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, February 25, TASS--A plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland took place here today. The plenum discussed matters pertaining to preparation for the party's forthcoming 18th congress, as well as the internal political situation in the country.

ATHERTON'S EFFORTS AIM AT SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL

LD242252Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State Atherton continues the so-called mediation task in the Middle East. Many observers regard this task as an attempt by Washington to revive the shuttle diplomacy, which went bankrupt. At the same time there is something in the U.S. policy which draws one's attention. It is the fact that Atherton began his task not in Cairo but in Israel. Many observers interpret this as a desire by U.S. diplomacy to further emphasize Washington's pro-Israeli policy course in the Middle East. To this they add the fact that the U S. Government proposed that Israeli Prime Minister Begin move up his visit to the United States. It seems that the United States wants to speed up the implementation of tactics that would make it possible to compel Cairo to make fresh concessions to the extreme and brazen ambitions of the Israeli aggressors.

The ultimate goal of Washington's and Tel Aviv's policy is the conclusion of a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal behind the backs of the Palestinians and the Arabs and at the expense of their national interests. Even the U.S. under secretary of state himself stated on arrival in Cairo that the main aim of his visit is to give a fresh impetus to the Egyptian-Israeli talks which cause much indignation in the Arab world and outside it.

Jordanian, PLO Reaction

LD251900Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York--U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton is continuing his "shuttle trips" between Cairo and Jerusalem in an attempt to get the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks restarted. After a 2-day meeting with the leaders of the Egyptian Arab Republic he is back in Jerusalem again. In Atherton's own words he is behaving exclusively as a "postman", keeping the two sides informed of each other's position. Later on, however, he could be presenting "American compromise proposals."

According to political observers, American efforts for control essentially boil down to attempts to sway Egypt towards making new concessions of principle and concluding a separate deal based on conditions dictated by Israel. These conditions meet with "understanding" in Cairo. Atherton reported that President as-Sadat assured him of his determination to "achieve progress" in the talks with Israel.

At the same time, Israel's position remains demonstratively rigid. Israel's Foreign Minister Dayan confirmed once again, in an interview for Tel Aviv radio, that "one cannot even speak" of full withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories, nor of recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He made it clearly understood that Tel Aviv does not intend to stop the illegal colonization of usurped lands, and called the establishment of a network of military settlements on them "one of the measures to secure Israel's safety."

London--quoting Jordanian sources, the DAILY TELEGRAPH reports that pressure has recently been exerted on Jordan to get it to join the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks. This kind of task in particular, the newspaper points out, was given to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton.

Nevertheless, the DAILY TELEGRAPH stresses, Jordan informed the United States that under the present circumstances, its participation in the talks "does not appear to be a possibility." The Jordanian Government considers the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank of the Jordan and the destruction of the Israeli militarized settlements established there, as well as the return of the eastern sector of Jerusalem, to be of prime necessity.

Beirut--Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has decisively condemned the separate Egyptian-Israeli deal being prepared with U.S. help. Speaking at a meeting here, he said that As-Sadat is committing a crime against the Arab people in trying to impose on them an American-Zionist "peace", which is nothing more than capitulation.

The Palestinian revolution, which is the vanguard of the Arab national liberation movement, noted Y. 'Arafat, is full of determination to continue the struggle for the implementation of the legal demands of the Palestinian people against the treacherous plans for settlement of the Near East conflict. Peace cannot be established in the Near East without the implementation of the legal rights of the Arab people of Palestine and without the participation of the PLO, which is its only legal representative.

BRITAIN'S OWEN IN MIDEAST TO HELP U.S. PRESSURE JORDAN

ID261905Y Moscow TASS in Englisy 1622 GMT 26 Feb 78 ID

["Under Pressure"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, February 26, TASS--The Foreign Secretary of Great Britain David Owen is making a journey to Middle East countries. According to the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, the trip's main goal is to back up U.S. efforts to prevail upon King Husayn of Jordan for him to join the separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiation, thereby ending the isolation of Egyptian President as-Sadat.

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, whom the top British diplomat met yesterday on arrival in Amman, stated that Jordan insisted on the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories and on recognition of the Palestine people's right to self-determination. Thus, Hassan made it clear that participation by his country in the As-Sadat-Begin negotiations is out of the question.

Speaking in Amman at a meeting with representatives of different circles, the British Foreign Secretary had to admit that the establishment of Israeli settlements on occupied Arab lands is illegal and hinders a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. Israel's proposal that the settlements should remain under Israeli military protection, he said, is hardly acceptable.

Today David Owen arrived in Israel.

Arrives in Tel Aviv

ID261436Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 26 Feb 78 ID

[Text] British Foreign Secretary David Owen arrived in Tel Aviv at the end of his talks in Amman. Observers see Owen's visit to Amman as an attempt to force Jordan to join the Israeli-Egyptian talks, which are now at an impasse.

According to reports, in their meetings with David Owen, Jordanian leaders reiterated [illegible] the evacuation of the Israeli forces from the Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinians right to self-determination are the two basic conditions for any settlement in the Middle East.

At the same time, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Atherton is on a mediation mission in the Middle East. PRAVDA feels that Washington's diplomacy aims at bolstering Tel Aviv's positions even further. This is why the United States allocates more billions of dollars to arm Israel.

USSR AAPSO DELEGATE EXPRESSES REGRET ON AS-SABA'I'S DEATH

LD262304Y Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 2100 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Soviet delegation to the meeting of the AAPSO Presidium has returned to Moscow from Cyprus. The delegation was headed by Mirza Ibragimov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity. At the microphone is Mirza Ibragimov. [Ibragimov--begin recording in Russian fading into translation]

Dear Friends; honorable listeners in Arab countries: I address you in the name of the Soviet delegation to the movement for Afro-Asian solidarity; I also address the Egyptian people to offer condolences and express deep regret on the occasion of the assassination of Mr Yusuf as-Saba'i, secretary general of AAPSO, distinguished public figure and a dear friend of ours.

We regard this criminal act as a conspiracy conducted by the forces of imperialism and reaction. When the two hired killers perpetrated their barbaric crime, we, the participants in the AAPSO session in Nicosia, voiced our strong denunciation of this act. On the 20th of this month, the Soviet Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity published in PRAVDA and other major newspapers a communique strongly condemning the assassination of the secretary general of this international democratic organization.

The assassination of Mr Yusuf as-Saba'i is to us and to the entire movement of Afro-Asian solidarity a huge loss; it has caused us deep pain.

We want to express our conviction that the movement of Afro-Asian solidarity will counter the conspiracies of the enemies of freedom, progress and solidarity between peoples by bringing its ranks closer and closer and by intensifying its struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. [end recording]

SHIFT IN POLICIES OF CURRENT CAIRO LEADERSHIP UNFORTUNATE

ID242237Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Feb 78 ID

[A. Timoshkin commentary. "The Larnaca Airport Events and the Current Policy of the Egyptian Leadership"]

[Excerpts] Peace be with you, gentlemen. First of all I would like to join those who condemn the assassins of the secretary general of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, Yusuf as-Saba'i, and also those who demand that the assassins must receive legal punishment.

At the same time, I agree with those who believe that the armed action by the Egyptian commandos, which was ordered by Cairo, was unlawful and criminal; it cannot be justified by any excuse of wanting to punish the assassins of Yusuf as-Saba'i, nor is it possible to justify Cairo's military action against the sovereign state of Cyprus.

I have many connections with Egypt where I worked for several years and where I have many friends. This is why I feel much sorrow for the Egyptian people who had no hand in the criminal Larnaca operation, which caused the senseless death of Egyptian youths in military uniform.

Cairo's current official policy is moving further and further away from the policy which was followed for about 20 years after the revolution. Thanks to the Cairo leadership, today Cairo has become the Mecca for representatives of imperialist monopolies and a huge center for greedy Western banks.

Today arms are being sent from Cairo to the Somali aggressors. Such actions by Cairo can only arouse feelings of great sorrow and regret. But at the same time, these actions cannot prevent the feelings of affection toward the heroic and brave Egyptian people who have made many sacrifices and suffered deprivations in their just struggle so that they can be really free and independent, the struggle for a better future for them and for [word indistinct].

AS-SADAT USES CYPRUS EVENTS TO CRITICIZE PALESTINIANS

LD250031Y Moscow TASS in English 2122 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 24, TASS--Egyptian President as-Sadat's threats against the Palestinians show how irresponsible his behavior has been since his trip to Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, said Salah Halaf, one of the prominent Palestinian leaders. As-Sadat did not limit himself to revengeful threats against the Palestinians, he said. By his actions he draws the Egyptian people into affairs that are alien to them and this does harm to all the Arab peoples.

Using the events in Cyprus as an excuse, S. Halaf said, Anwar as-Sadat attacks the Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organization while deliberately ignoring the fact that the PLO was the first to condemn this action and to take certain steps to have the hostages released, S. Halaf said. The people of Egypt are being indoctrinated against the Palestinians in order to cover up the refusal by the Egyptian regime to support the Palestinian cause and to sign a separate deal with Israel.

The Palestinian leader expressed full support for the actions of the President of Cyprus S. Kiprianou to safeguard the sovereignty of his republic.

Egyptian, Israeli Propaganda

LD241828Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Israeli and Cairo propaganda organs are currently waging a campaign of lies and fabrications against the Palestinian resistance movement. This campaign began following the tragic incidents in Nicosia and at Larnaca Airport.

The gist of the campaign is the accusation that the Palestinian resistance movement participated in the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i and in the battle between the Egyptian commandos, who intruded on Cyprus, and the soldiers of the Cypriot National Guard. For example, the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV despite all facts, has claimed that Egyptian commandos and men from the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] wearing civilian clothing took part in the battle. From those false claims the Israeli paper concludes that the PLO is responsible for the large losses inflicted on the Egyptian aggressors at Larnaca Airport.

Such statements also have been reiterated on the pages of the Cairo papers. The Egyptian president has added his voice to the harsh campaign against the Palestinians. As for the aims of this campaign--they are clear. First and foremost the Israeli and Egyptian propaganda organs are striving to distort the nature and the direction of the struggle of the Palestinian resistance movement. Accordingly, these organs are trying to harm the international influence of the PLO, recognized by most countries of the world and considered the sole legitimate representative of the 3 million Palestinian Arab people. However, recently Israel and the United States along with the Egyptian leaders have been refusing to recognize the PLO and are searching among the Palestinians for those who would betray the interests of their patient people.

Moreover the anti-Palestinian campaign by Tel Aviv and Cairo is seeking something else--to hide those who are responsible for the bloody events in the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia and at Larnaca Airport. The role of the American and Israeli intelligence services in these incidents in Cyprus and primarily in the assassination of the general secretary of AAPSO is being increasingly noted. As for Cyprus, no one doubts it was an innocent party to the Larnaca Airport battle.

In their attempts to avoid responsibility the Cairo propaganda organs in partnership with Israeli propaganda are spreading lies hostile to the Palestinians. Thus the Egyptian leadership is showing the whole world the true [word indistinct] of its oft-repeated statements claiming that Cairo is working to insure the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

CAIRO'S AL-AHRAM HIT FOR 'LIES' ABOUT SOVIET POSITION

LD242230Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] Cairo's AL-AHRAM has published brazen lies about the policy of the Soviet Union. When one reads what AL-AHRAM writes, one naturally concludes that the authors of these lies are not pleased at the fact that Soviet-Syrian cooperation in all fields is getting deeper and stronger, nor are they pleased by the fact that both the Soviet Union and Syria consider Cairo's unilateral policy as harmful and dangerous to the Arab's interests. We observe that the overwhelming majority of Arabs agree with this viewpoint. It is not mere coincidence that no Arab country wants to join the Egyptian-Israeli talks. This is quite logical, since As-Sadat's policy, despite all his nonsensical utterances, aims at foiling the just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and not at bringing about such a settlement.

One ought to underline two aspects of the Soviet Union's constant and principled attitude toward Arab causes, which was summed up quite clearly by Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at the Kremlin dinner given in honor of the president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Leonid Brezhnev stressed first of all the extraordinary importance of ensuring solidarity and cohesion among the Arabs for the triumph of their just cause. He said: Whether the aggressor or the just cause of freedom, peace and independence of the people will triumph depends on the Arab people's resolve and cohesion. Second, the Soviet Union wants a Middle East settlement which, as Brezhnev said, entails the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967, and insures the established rights of the Palestinian Arab people, in the first pleace their right to self-determination and to set up their own state, and also insures peace and security for all the states in the region. This is the Soviet Union's very clear and principled attitude which the majority inside and outside the Arab world praise.

It seems that those behind the anti-Soviet lies in AL-AHRAM are not pleased at the Soviet Union's candid statement that it would support only the policy of the Arab countries seeking to continue the relentless struggle for the removal of all traces of the Israeli aggression. But Cairo, as it is known, is presently following a completely opposite policy.

It only remains to remind those who work for Cairo's AL-AHRAM of the saying: The truth [word indistinct] the eye.

SYRIANS CEIEBRATE RESULTS OF AL-ASAD-BREZHNEV TALKS

ID252034Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1635 GMT 25 Feb 78 ID

[From the "International Diary" program]

[Text] The official friendly visit of the party and government delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet-Syrian talks, which were held at the highest level, are at the center of attention of Syrian public opinion. I would like to ask our Near East correspondent Leonid Rassadin, who is now in the Syrian capital, Damascus, to tell us about this in more detail:

[Rassadin] Here in Damascus the visit to the USSR by Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab republic, is the major topic. All Syrians, without exception, are pointing out, above all, the successes of these talks and the concrete results of the meetings which the Syrian party and government delegation held with Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other Soviet leaders. The Damascus press is stressing the great significance of the Soviet-Syrian communique, which clearly and precisely sets out the ways to achieve a just, all-embracing settlement in the Near East.

Because of a new conspiracy of imperialism and Zionism the Arab people, said Mahmud Jadid, a member of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the General Federation of Labor Unions of Syrian, in an interview with your correspondent, the talks in Moscow acquire a special significance. As is known, the situation in the Near East has grown extremely complex as a result of the separate talks between Egypt and Israel, which are aimed at imposing capitulationist settlement conditions on the Arabs. However, as the present Soviet-Syrian high-level meetings have shown, these intrigues are now countered by a powerful front of opposition. We Syrians, Mahmud Jadid continued, are sincerely grateful to the Soviet Union for its constant support of the Arab people's struggle for the return of all occupied Arab lands and the guaranteeing of the legal and national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

This firm USSR position has again been convincingly confirmed in Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech at the Kremlin reception. By this very fact the Soviet Union has once more demonstrated to the whole world that it stands firmly on the side of all national liberation movements.

The people of Syria, concluded Mahmud Jadid, president of the General Federation of Syrian Labor Unions, are convinced that the talks which took place in Moscow will serve the further deepening of Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation in the interest of the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Near East.

MIDDLE EAST MEDIA PRAISE SOVIET-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE

LD252210Y Moscow TASS in English 2050 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, February 25, TASS--The mass media of Syria continue to comment widely on the results of the official friendly visit to the Soviet Union by Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. A Radio Damascus commentary emphasises that the joint Soviet-Syrian communique indicates that another big and important step has been made towards further strengthening of the ties of friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries. The development of relations between them, the commentary says, meets not only the interests of Syria and the Soviet Union but also the goals of national liberation, the step-up of struggle against the forces of aggression, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The fruitful results of the Soviet-Syrian talks are of exceptionally big importance because the sides exposed the true causes of tension in the Middle East and stated their determination to continue to struggle for an all-embracing settlement in the area and emphasised the cohesion and coordination of the actions of all progressive forces are a decisive element in this struggle, Radio Damascus points out.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH devoted an article to the results of the visit. The article is headlined "Syrian-Soviet Cooperation Is an Effective Weapon in the Cause of Common Struggle Against Imperialism and Zionism".

Wide and strong contacts between the USSR and Syria, the article says, acquire special importance at the present stage when a Washington-Cairo-Tel Aviv reactionary axis is being knocked together and when insistent attempts are being made to impose a settlement on the Arabs, settlement which fully contradicts their interests.

Giving a high appraisal of the Soviet Union's attitude towards the Middle East problem, AL-BA'TH emphasises that the USSR and Syria come out for an all-embracing settlement of the conflict on a just basis, and reject the way of separate deals. Syria, the newspaper writes, is reaffirming the necessity for the Soviet Union's participation in Middle East settlement.

Beirut, February 2, TASS--The Lebanese press describes the joint Soviet-Syrian communique as another contribution to the cause of strengthening and developing relations between the USSR and Arab countries which come out for a just and all-embracing settlement in the Middle East.

The newspaper ASH-SH'AB writes in its leading article that the communique points to the necessity to rally all progressive forces in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism, and firmly condemns the Egyptian Government's capitulatory course. The newspaper's opinion is that the Syrian president's visit to the USSR reaffirmed the rightness of the stand taken by Syria and other progressive Arab countries which issued a resolute rebuff to the A.R.E. leadership's course towards separate deals with Israel.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT: POLICY ON MIDEAST DISPUTE UNCHANGED

LD270708Y Moscow TASS in English 0705 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, February 27, TASS--The policy of Cyprus towards the Middle East problem remains unchanged, said President of the Republic Spiros Kiprianou at a press conference held here. He stressed that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be resolved only on the basis of the U.N. resolutions.

MATERIAL ON VISIT TO TURKEY BY LIBYA'S JALLUD

Ecevit Remarks

LD250046Y Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, February 24, TASS--In its home and foreign policy the Republic of Turkey abides by the principles that were proclaimed by its founder, Kemal Ataturk. This was said by the prime minister of Turkey, B. Ecevit, at a dinner given here in honour of A. S. Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of Libya, now staying here on a visit.

The Turkish people, the prime minister said, want a lasting peace to be established in the Middle East where an end must be put to lawlessness and suffering. The pressing need now is to settle the Palestinian question without delay through the implementation of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, up to giving them an opportunity of establishing their own independent state. To ensure a lasting peace in the region it is also necessary to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. All this should be settled by peaceful means and as soon as possible.

The Turkish Government, B. Ecevit said, is prepared to formalize officially the friendly relations established with the Palestine Liberation Organization. We are also against neo-colonialism and racial discrimination in Africa, he said.

Communique Issued

LD250037Y Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, February 24, TASS--'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, ended his visit to Turkey today. He was received by the president of Turkey, Fahri Koruturk, and held official talks with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit concerning bilateral economic cooperation and a number of international problems.

In their joint communique published here today, Turkey and Libya reaffirmed the need for unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab lands in accordance with the United Nations decisions and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The Libyan side expressed satisfaction with the fact that Turkey is prepared to open a PLO representation in Ankara.

It is also stressed in the communique that Turkey and Libya consider it necessary to do away with racial discrimination in the south of Africa and to put an end to the exploitation of Africa by foreign states.

Turkey and Libya, the communique says, will attach great importance to close cooperation and solidarity between developing countries in the efforts to establish a new economic order in the world and eliminate all manifestations of imperialism and exploitation.

TURKEY VALUES SOVIET 'POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE'

LD201800Y Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1030 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Lidiya Suyetina commentary]

[Excerpts] Bilateral talks on a number of issues of interest to Turkey and the United States have been held in Ankara. Judging by reports from Ankara, discussions on the embargo, which so far has not lost its topicality, were given prominence in the talks. The embargo was declared 4 years ago and a most concrete approach to this issue is (?wanted in Turkey).

The fact that the U.S. legislators have linked the lifting of the notorious embargo to a review of some aspects of Turkish foreign policy has had a most negative reaction in both political and broad public circles. It cannot be denied that Turkish citizens, who consider this to be an (?infringement) of Turkey's sovereign rights, are correct.

A great many Turks do not understand the stand adopted by the United States which, thinking only of its own interests, demands that Turkey fulfil completely all the obligations she has undertaken as an ally. As is understood, Turkish public circles who believe that this situation has once again shown that relations within the Atlantic bloc are not equal and that Turkey has been assigned [words indistinct] role in the bloc, are right.

The U.S. embargo on arms shipments to Turkey automatically led to the emergency of a number of problems. There is one other point which should not be forgotten. Trends toward a gradual deepening of detente in the international situation are seen. As a result, Turkey faces the need to review some of its foreign policy concepts, among them national security. In this connection new ideas that have emerged have found manifestation in the program of the Ecevit government and in a recent statement made by Defense Minister Hasan Esat Isik. One point which is noteworthy is that, guided by a more realistic approach to the facts, the new concepts give priority, not to the obligations which Turkey has taken on itself as a NATO member, but to the country's national interests. Therefore, (?this kind of) new political fact forces Turkey to approach the question of ensuring the country's security from another angle.

Dear listeners, (?We) all know that international detente is spreading successfully in the Black Sea region also. Today it is 2 years since the 25th CPSU Congress began its work. As is known, in his report to the 25th party congress, Leonid Brezhnev also mentioned Turkey among the Asian countries with which the Soviet Union is cooperating fruitfully in the spirit of neighborliness.

The lie with regard to the Soviet threat circulated by the imperialists is turning to ashes from day to day. Speaking in parliament on occasion of the acceptance of the new [words indistinct], Defense Minister Hasan Esat Isik said that Turkey had no (?disputes) with friendly neighboring countries.

Dear listeners, I believe it will be appropriate if we point out that ever since the time of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet Union has been pursuing a policy of peaceful coexistence, a policy of struggle against the arms race. Life itself, the experience of all-embracing international cooperation, and the (?question) of strengthening security, lead to the conclusion gained by other countries, among them Turkey, that only such a policy is in line with the interests of their peoples.

ATHENS CONFERENCE FAVORS MEDITERRANEAN 'ZONE OF PEACE'

LD2316411Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[S. Pomerantsev article: "The Mediterranean Needs Peace"]

[Text] An international conference on peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean has been held in Athens. Taking part in the work of the conference, which was convened on the initiative of the WPC, were representatives of 30 states and 16 international organizations.

The fact that the Mediterranean is continuing to be an arena of bitter conflicts is arousing the anxiety and concern of the peoples of that region. The complication of the situation in the Near East, brought about by the Egyptian president's attempt to conclude a separate deal with Israel behind the backs of the Arab peoples, Israel's nonrecognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the fact that the Cyprus problem has not been settled represent a serious threat to international peace and security.

Tension in the Mediterranean is intensifying as a result of the increased activeness of the aggressive NATO bloc in countries in the region, the existence of foreign military bases there, the continuing arms race and attempts by Western imperialist circles to interfere in the internal affairs of states in this basin. A particular danger is presented by the plans of the American military clique and NATO to commence production of the neutron bomb and to deploy it in several West European states, including Mediterranean countries.

At the international conference in Athens representatives of many states subjected to decisive condemnation the policy of the countries of the West which are hindering the spread of international detente to the Mediterranean region. In the concluding document the participants in the conference expressed readiness to intensify the struggle for an end to the arms race, a ban on nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction, the elimination of foreign military bases in the region and the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH GREECE--Athens, February 22, TASS--An agreement on cooperation and expansion of commercial, economic, scientific and other ties between organizations and firms of Greece and foreign trade organizations of the USSR has been signed here. The agreement provides for the exchange of information of economics, foreign trade, trade legislation, trade and customs procedures. The two sides have also undertaken to help each other with arranging symposiums and lectures by experts in various fields. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1604 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD]

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Brzezinski Remarks; Aaron Activities

LD2518311 Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

["Inconsistent Stand"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 25, TASS--At a meeting with journalists in the White House, Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to U.S. President for national security affairs, said the USA has no doubt that Somalia violated the Ethiopian border and thereby the principle of the territorial integrity of that country. According to Brzezinski, the USA in no way supports that violation.

Having thus admitted the fact of Somali aggression the assistant to the U.S. President at the same time tried to distort the stand of countries which render legitimate help to the Government of Ethiopia in maintaining its independence, in upholding its legitimate rights and territorial integrity from aggressor's enroachment. Zbigniew Brzezinski passed over in silence the widely-known facts of deliveries of American weapons to Somalia through third countries.

Meanwhile the press reported that Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, gave an opportunity to David Aaron, deputy assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, to see that the Somali troops have those weapons available. David Aaron was shown various kinds of American weapons captured by Ethiopians during fighting.

Barre Remarks; Arms for Somalia

LD2421007 Moscow TASS in English 2037 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] New York, February 24, TASS--Ethiopia's people are determined to repulse aggression, defend revolutionary gains, firmly adhering to the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organisation of African Unity. This was stated by the Ethiopian permanent representative at the United Nations, Mohammed Hamid Ibrahim.

Nairobi, February 24, TASS--Reports from Mogadiscio say President Siad Barre of Somalia has told a press conference that there could be no talk of "internationally recognized borders" between Somalia and Ethiopia in the Ogaden region.

Addis Ababa, February 24, TASS--A spokesman for the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Orientation has strongly condemned the claims of the Somali leaders to the "right" to wilfully interfere in Ethiopia's domestic affairs and to revise her internationally recognized borders. The latest statement by the Somali president on the non-recognition of the existing border with Ethiopia, he emphasized, is a crude violation of the respective OAU decisions. It points to Mogadiscio's aggressive designs toward the neighbouring nations.

The statement shows that the appeals by the Somali leadership for a peace settlement are a smokescreen covering up their true intentions.

Paris, February 24, TASS--According to a report in the LE MONDE newspaper the first batch of 300 Italian armoured cars and 600 French antiaircraft and antitank missiles has arrived in Somalia. These and other supplies, LE MONDE points out, were authorised by the United States at the meeting of five Western powers held in Washington on January 22 this year.

Another French newspaper, MATIN, quotes Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Saudi Arabia and Iran have supplied Somalia with more than a hundred tanks, including French- and American-made ones and also West German "Leopard" tanks adopted for service in the NATO forces.

Teheran, February 24, TASS--The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied reports about Iran's arms supplies to Somalia. It described the reports as "false".

Ethiopian Statement About Saudis

LD261803Y Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 26, TASS--A spokesman for the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Orientation strongly condemned the intention of Saudi Arabia to knock together a bloc of Arab countries for giving wide support to Smali expansionist quarters in their aggression against Ethiopia. Saudi Arabia, he said, is appearing in the role of a tool of international imperialism and other reactionary forces in the war against revolutionary Ethiopia. The spokesman commented on a report from Kuwait which says Saudi Arabia has drawn up a detailed program for helping Somalia by a number of Arab states in the war against Ethiopia. The program was submitted for examination to Britain, Qatar, the United Arab emirates, Oman and other countries, some of which agreed to render such aid to Somalia.

Vigorous encouragement of the Somali leaders' adventurist policy by Saudi Arabia, says the statement of the ministry, points to the existence of a conspiracy hatched by imperialist forces and aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia. In these circumstances, special concern of the member-countries of the Organization of African Unity is caused by the fact that Saudi Arabia's plans, which threaten peace and security on the continent, are being drawn up at a time when reports are coming in about a growing flow of modern weapons and foreign mercenaries to Somalia from West European countries and other NATO member-countries. The [word indistinct] of these armaments comes from third countries, which is controlled and coordinated by Saudi Arabia.

Revolutionary Ethiopia will take all appropriate measures which it deems necessary to guarantee its territorial integrity and expel the Somali aggressor's troops from its land, the statement stresses. Ethiopia's resolve to defend the revolution and the country's unity cannot be shaken by any threats and machinations on the part of the ruling circles of Saudi Arabia and other participants in the imperialist conspiracy, who regard the revolution of Ethiopia's popular masses as a direct menace to their existence.

Western Aid

LD261608Y Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 26 TASS--The armed forces and units of Ethiopia's people's militia routed Somalian troops that tried to launch an offensive on the town of Kontman in Sidamo Province. The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY, ENA, reports that large quantities of weapons of NATO makes were seized during the battles. According to ENA, about 200 troops of Somalia's regular Army were killed in the province over the past week. An exhibition of weapons seized during the battles against the Somalian aggressors was mounted in one of Addis Ababa's districts. The exhibits include recoilless anti-tank guns, mortars, automatic firearms, crates with ammunition with the NATO countries' hallmarks. "NATO, hands off the revolutionary Ethiopia" is the slogan of mass demonstrations held in many Ethiopian towns. The working people strongly condemn interference of Western powers in the internal affairs of states of the Horn of Africa. The participants in the meetings declare that wide military aid of NATO countries to Somalian aggression leads to the widening of the armed conflict and is the main obstacle to its settlement.

The revolutionary Ethiopia is waging the struggle against the forces of internal and external reaction which are relying on a wide assistance and support of world imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes, said Mengistu Haile Mariam, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia. He expressed firm confidence that the Ethiopian revolution, which has the entire progressive mankind on its side, will defeat its enemies.

New York February 26 TASS--The United States intends to increase military aid to Somalia in its aggression against the neighbouring Ethiopia. This can be seen from a report of the New York TIMES commentator, James Reston, who pointed out that the Carter administration now holds consultations with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran on "practical" support for Somalia.

Kuwait, February 26 TASS--The Kuwait newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports that Saudi Arabia had worked out a program of collective aid of a number of Arab states to Somalia in its war against Ethiopia. The newspaper points out that this plan was suggested to the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and a number of other regimes and met with their full approval.

Nairobi, February 26 TASS--The Kenyan Government expressed serious concern with the open support that is given by some Western countries and reactionary Arab regimes to Somalia in its claims to a part of the Ethiopian territory. The commentary of the "Voice of Kenya" state-owned radio station points out that by supplying armaments to Somalia Western powers back its over aggression against Ethiopia. The deliveries of military equipment to the country which is conducting a clearly expansionist policy create real danger not only for sovereignty of states in the Horn of Africa but also for world peace and security.

Condition for Settlement

ID251846Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1416 GMT 25 Feb 78 ID

["Practical Steps Are Needed"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--TASS political observer Sergey Kulik writes:

The military defeats the Somali leaders, who have unleashed aggression against neighboring Ethiopia, are sustaining in the Ogaden have given imperialist propaganda an excuse to whip up ...anti-Soviet hysteria. Those in the West who remained silent when the Somali forces launched an offensive into Ethiopian territory and who until today have not condemned the aggressor are now claiming with purely provocative aims that Ethiopia is preparing to invade Somalia "at Moscow's instigation." At the same time they are claiming that USSR is striving "to consolidate itself" in the African Horn area in order to establish control over the Red Sea and cut off the route along which the West receives its Near East oil. Others are talking themselves blue in the face accusing the Soviet Union of "having an interest in" the creation of an explosive region in Africa.

As the Ethiopian leaders have repeatedly stressed, there are no differences or hostility between the peoples of Somalia and Ethiopia. Ethiopia's actions, which are directed are repulsing the aggression of the Somali Armed Forces, are its legal right to self-defense. Ethiopia has no territorial claims on neighboring states. Its aim lies merely in driving the aggressor out of its lands. The Ethiopian people are ready to maintain neighborly relations and to extend the hand of friendship and cooperation to the people of Somalia but on the condition of the full adherence to the basic principles set down in the UN and OAU charters.

Taking into account this principled and clear position of Addis Ababa, the West's policy of satisfying Mogadiscio's ever growing military appetite, which demands more and more arms deliveries, can only lead to an aggravation of the situation in the area of the Horn of Africa. And fabrications directed at the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy, which is trying to find a just settlement to this problem, are not really helping matters.

Now discussions should concentrate on practical measures which would help to end the escalation of the conflict. An indispensable condition for a settlement in the Horn of Africa is not only an end to military action but also an immediate and complete withdrawal of Somali forces from Ethiopian territory. Only such a solution to the question could stop the unnecessary bloodshed and loss of life, prevent the emergence on our planet of another dangerous and constant hotbed of international tension and provide all developing countries in the Horn of Africa with an opportunity to regain peace and resume their search for solutions to the complex social and economic problems facing them.

Eritrean Situation

LD261724Y Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 26, TASS--So far the Eritrean problem has failed to find a democratic and peaceable solution because of interference by international imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes, writes editorially the paper ETHIOPIAN HERALD. Making use of separatist groupings, operating in full isolation from the popular masses of the province, the forces of reaction are counting on dismembering Ethiopia and undermining the popular revolution there.

The paper notes that the invasion by the Somali Army in the east of the country and encouragement to the splitters in Eritrea are part and parcel of a single imperialist conspiracy.

The article stresses that the Provisional Military Administrative Council intends to drive for a peaceful solution of the Eritrean problem. The fate of Eritrea must not be determined by a bunch of misled petty-bourgeois elements, dancing to the tune of international imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes. The popular masses of Ethiopia bear the historical responsibility for liberating the oppressed Eritrean people from the influence of the separatists and their imperialist accomplices, states the ETHIOPIAN HERALD.

ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS MEET IN MOZAMBIQUE

LD251630Y Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, February 25, TASS--A meeting of leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimabwe, which leads the liberation struggle of the people of that country against the racist Smith regime, has been held in Mozambique's capital. Having considered the political situation in Rhodesia, the participants in the meeting reaffirmed the need of transferring power in that country to genuine representatives of the people of Zimbabwe. They stated that intensification of the Zimbabwe people's armed struggle till full and ultimate victory will be the Patriotic Front's reply to the agreement on the so-called internal settlement in Rhodesia, concluded by the racists ring-leader Smith, with puppet African leaders.

RHODESIAN POWER HANDOVER 'DELAYED 10 YEARS'

LD262000Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Vsevolod Shishkovskiy commentary]

[Text] The Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, heading the liberation struggle of the country's popular masses against the racist clique, has resolutely condemned the hypocritical policy of Britain and the United States on the Rhodesian issue. The leaders of the front, Nkomo and Mugabe, at a press conference in the Mozambique capital again condemned the so-called internal settlement between Smith, head of the racists and the hireling African puppets. Here is our commentator, Vsevolod Shishkovskiy:

There is no doubt that the anti-popular deal in Salisbury has been concluded with the actual support of London and Washington. This is shown in particular by the speech in the British Parliament by Owen, the foreign secretary, who declared his full support for this deal, and also a similar statement by the U.S. State Department on the subject. The Salisbury deal, which preserves the political and economic privileges of the racists, at the same time safeguards the interests of international imperialism in Rhodesia. Let us recall that this deal between Smith and African puppets who do not represent anybody provides constitutional guarantees by which the whites retain all means of production and property.

In the future parliament, 28 seats out of 100 are allocated to white deputies, representing only 4 percent of the population; and to prevent any amendments to the constitution, 23 votes suffice. In other words, this settlement in no way touches on the nature of the racial regime but is only a matter of a certain internal reorganization and changes to the appearance of the facade. In accordance with this agreement, for the next 10 years the country's constitution cannot be amended. This constitution guarantees the political and economic privileges of the white minority, whose interests will be carefully defended by the present--that is, racist--system of the state apparatus, police, armed forces and prisons. Thus the solution of the issue of handing over power in Rhodesia to the hands of the African majority will be postponed, according to the ideas of the racists and their Western sponsors, for at least another 10 years.

It is perfectly natural that the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the only legitimate representative of the long-suffering people of the country, resolutely rejects the criminal deal in Salisbury and angrily condemns the hypocritical policy of Britain and the United States. The front leaders have again declared their determination to achieve real freedom and independence.

PRC SAID TO GIVE WEAPONS TO ANGOLAN 'SUBVERSIVES'

LD191755Y Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

["Enemies of People's Angola"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, February 19, TASS--The British paper SUNDAY TELEGRAPH reports that China is supplying the splitter UNITA grouping with weapons for subversive actions against the Government of People's Angola. The splitters, according to the paper, already received a large consignment of mortars, machineguns and rifles made in China. After the weapons, military advisers and instructors also arrived from Peking in the bandits' camp.

As is known, at the time when the Angolan people was repelling the aggression launched by the RSA [Republic of South Africa] military and local stooges of imperialism in 1975, China rendered broad military aid to another puppet grouping--the FNLA, which is headed by the CIA's paid agent of long standing--H. Roberto.

At present Peking has again linked up with the most vicious enemy of free Africa--the racist RSA regime, which is arming and training UNITA thugs at its bases in northern Namibia.

It is noteworthy that among the enemies of the People's Republic of Angola is the Pinochet's fascist junta, too, with which China maintains political, diplomatic and economic relations. Mercenaries from among Pinochet's henchmen directly participate in the training of UNITA gangs in Namibia.

NEW ANGOLAN CONSTITUTION 'IMPORTANT EVENT'

Moscow in Portuguese to Africa 1700 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Constitution of the People's Republic of Angola has been promulgated in Luanda. This is an important event in the life of this young state, which attained independence over 2 years ago, as a result of a long anticolonial struggle. The drafting of the country's constitution proves the regularization of the process of progressive development of Angolan society. The constitution approved by the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee proclaims the complete liberation of the Angolan people from the remnants of colonialism and the building of a society free from exploitation of man by man as the main goal of the People's Republic of Angola. The choice of a socialist parth of development has thus been laid down in the country's legislation.

To this clause in the country's constitution correspond the practical measures taken by the government both in the political and social spheres in the life of the Angolan people. The constitution underlines the role played by the MPLA in Angolan society. The constitution (?describes the MPLA) as the organized vanguard of the working class.

This Marxist-Leninist party, the constitution stresses, supervizes the state's political, economic and social life with a view to building a socialist society. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Angola envisages the multilateral development of the state-owned sector of economy, thus excluding the revival of relations of exploitation based on private property of the means of production in the country.

Enterprises in the metallurgic, textile and cement industry sectors, the fishing companies and the coffee and sugar plantations have been nationalized. The process of consolidation of the state-owned sectors in the country's economy does not stop. Since the beginning of this year alone, 125 industrial and agricultural enterprises have been nationalized. Many factories in Angola are currently being run by the state with the participation of workers' committees. In the rural areas, together with the broad campaign in favor of the creation of cooperatives based on the large farms abandoned by their former owners, state enterprises are being set up.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Angola also calls for a progressive policy in the international sphere. In the chapter devoted to foreign policy, there is a specific reference to Angola's wish to establish mutually advantageous relations in conditions of equality with all countries. Assistance to African liberation movements and the country's loyalty to the OAU and UN statutes are proclaimed as two important commitments. The approval of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Angola reaffirms the legitimacy of the choice of the main guidelines for the development of a society in which the well-being of every citizen is regarded as a priority in the life of society.

SWAPO PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES IN EUROPE REPORTED

LD251212Y Moscow TASS in English 1034 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Helsinki, February 25, TASS--A Namibian delegation headed by Sam Nujoma, the president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), concluded a visit to Finland.

During the visit, there were talks between Sam Nujoma and Finland's foreign minister, Paavo Vayrynen.

The members of the delegation told the Finnish Government about the political situation in Namibia.

Addressing a press conference here, Sam Nujoma said that the question of Namibia's independence cannot be solved through splitting the country into so-called bantustans. Such plans of the South African racialist Government cannot be approved by the people. We wish to see Namibia a free country and so we shall continue the struggle for independence until complete victory, he said. The Namibian people are fighting for a just cause against neo-colonialism and exploitation. Sam Nujoma said that SWAPO of late achieved considerable combat successes. The northern areas of the country have been, specifically, liberated. Schools and hospitals are being built in liberated lands.

Brussels, February 25, TASS--Sam Nujoma, the president of the South-West Africa People's organization (SWAPO), said here on Friday that the organization is conducting an intensive work for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council's resolution 385 of January 30, 1976.

The resolution envisages the transfer of power in Namibia to the representatives of the African majority and the holding of elections in the country under the United Nations auspices. The United Nations officially recognizes SWAPO as the sole lawful representative of the Namibian people.

Speaking at a press conference in Brussels, the SWAPO leader confirmed the position of the Namibian patriots who hold that transfer of power that was illegally usurped by the Pretoria racialists must be made under the control and with the participation of the United Nations.

SWAPO demands that all South African troops and paramilitary formations should be withdrawn from Namibia within three months after the elections, Sam Nujoma said. We shall allow a temporary presence [of] 1,500 South African troops for the period of the elections, provided that they are under the control of the United Nations troops.

During SWAPO delegation's visit in Brussels, Sam Nujoma had a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet. On behalf of his government, Henri Simonet said that Belgium supports formation in Namibia of an independent African majority government in accordance with the Security Council's resolution 385.

Sam Nujoma was staying in Brussels on a short visit.

NAMIBIA PROBLEM 'CANNOT BE RESOLVED' WITHOUT SWAPO

LD241645Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Fedor Tarasov article: "It Cannot Be Resolved Without SWAPO"]

[Text] The talks on the future of Namibia, which were held in New York by the United States, Britain, France, the FRG and Canada, who have assumed the role of "mediators" between the Republic of South Africa and the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), have ended without results.

Namibia, which is illegally occupied by the Republic of South Africa, should become independent. No one doubts this today. But by relying on military forces the Republic of South Africa has for a long time now been trying to implement a neocolonialist version of Namibia's "independence." A series of talks with tribal leaders obedient to the racists should, according to Pretoria's design, have been crowned by the creation of a puppet administration in Namibia. But the Namibian people and SWAPO categorically rejected these plans.

Nonetheless, in going to the talks in New York, the South African racists were counting on forcing SWAPO to agree to "elections" under the control of a foreign army and, if SWAPO refused to do this, to present the refusal as the "intransigence and bellicosity" of the true representatives of Namibia and their "lack of desire" for a peace settlement.

A useless attempt, let us say frankly. The whole world knows that it is above all the policy of the Republic of South Africa which is creating obstacles on the path of a settlement of the situation in Namibia. In building up its military potential on occupied territory, the Republic of South Africa, as its president stated recently, intends to keep its troops in Namibia even after the proclamation of "independence." The talks in New York merely confirmed the reluctance of the racists of the Republic of South Africa to take into account the Africans' just demands that the occupation of Namibia be ended and this country be granted independence.

SWAPO President S. Nujoma has stated that one of the main conditions for insuring Namibia's independence is the withdrawal of Pretoria's troops from its territory. This position meets with the broad support of the progressive public of the whole world. The Republic of South Africa will not succeed in discrediting the fighters for Namibia's freedom and independence. The New York talks have shown once again that the problem of Namibia cannot be resolved without SWAPO.

ELECTIONS IN SENEGAL OCCUR IN 'TENSE SITUATION'

LD262120Y Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Dakar, February 26, TASS--General parliamentary and presidential elections are held today throughout the territory of Senegal. For the first time in the history of the independent republic two candidatures have been nominated for the presidency: the ruling socialist [words indistinct] Senegal nominate its general secretary the present head of state, L.S. Senghor, and the Senegalese Democratic Party nominated its general secretary, A. Wade.

100 places in the future parliament are contested by candidates from three parties, the PSS, the PDS and also the renovated African Party of Independence of Senegal.

In connection with the tense situation characterizing the election period, the government alerted the police and gendarmes. The minister of the interior banned the movement of traffic for the whole day between cities and other populated areas and within them. Permission is given only for the movement of military, ambulances and fire vehicles. All flights by national and international air companies are cancelled or postponed till other dates.

QUADRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN IN LIBYA

LD241532Y Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 24, TASS--Quadripartite negotiations of leaders of Libya, Chad, Niger and Sudan have opened in the Libyan town of Sabhau. Taking part in the negotiations are General Secretary of the General People's Congress of Libya Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Chad Felix Malloum; Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Niger Seyni Kountche; and First Vice-President of Sudan Muhammad Ibrahim.

In the course of the negotiations the leaders of the four countries are discussing questions of normalization of relations between Chad and Libya, and also a number of questions pertaining to consolidation of cooperation between the four states of the Sahara region and consolidation of these states' efforts in the struggle against imperialism's designs in Africa.

In a statement for the press, issued before the opening of the negotiations, General Secretary of the General People's Congress of Libya Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi strongly denounced Western powers' attempts to sow the seeds of enmity and strife between the peoples of African countries. He declared against Western states' interference into African people's affairs and stressed that the African states are able to resolve their own all internal African problems.

Chad-Libya Relations

LD261737Y Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

["A Peaceful Solution to Controversial Questions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tripoli, February 26, TASS--The leadership of the Republic of Chad expressed deep satisfaction over the results of a quadripartite meeting of the leaders of Libya, Chad, Niger, and Sudan, and the efforts to normalize Chad-Libyan relations, stated the chairman of the Supreme Military Council of Chad, F. Malloum, before departure from Libya. He noted that this approach to the solution of acute questions reflects the adherence of the leaders of these countries to the ideas of African unity and conforms to the aspirations of African peoples coming out against foreign interference in their internal affairs.

In reply the general secretary of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Jamahiriyah Mu'ammar al-Quadhdhafi strongly condemned the attempts by Western imperialist powers to split African unity and establish control over natural riches belonging to Africans. He stressed that the quadripartite meeting will lead to an improvement of the situation not only in the Sahara region but in the area of the Horn of Africa as well.

MOSCOW COMMENTS ON ROMANOV VISIT TO SRV

OW2510052 Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1300 GMT 22 Feb 78 OW

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Comrade Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, has just ended its visit to Vietnam. In this connection, our observer Lensov comments:

Over the past 7 days, the Soviet people paid great attention to this visit by means of the press, radio and television. This is easily understood. It reflects the Soviets' deep friendship and (?respect) for the Vietnamese people and their desire to know more about socialist construction in Vietnam as well as the implementation of the resolutions of the Fourth VCP congress. At his meeting with Romanov in Hanoi, Comrade Le Duan stressed that Vietnamese-Soviet friendship is an important factor in the building of a prosperous Socialist Vietnam.

Dear friends, I would like to mention a few figures in this connection: Since the beginning of this 5-year plan, 23 important economic projects have undergone construction in your country with Soviet assistance. The projects that have been or are being built in Vietnam with Soviet assistance total 245. The effective cooperation between our two countries has been manifested in the establishment and development of Vietnam's major industries such as the power, machine and coal industries. At the (Cao Son) colliery alone, where Vietnamese and Soviet technical cadres are working side by side, 2 million tons of coal will be produced annually in the near future.

As Comrade Romanov stressed in his recent visit: As in the past and at present, solidarity with Vietnam will forever be the cause of the Soviet people heart and soul. It is an expression of the unbreakable loyalty of the Soviet people to immortal Marxism-Leninism and the principles of proletarian internationalism.

The working people of Leningrad have also made a significant contribution to Vietnam's peaceful reconstruction in Vietnam. Dozens of industrial and agricultural enterprises have been built in Vietnam in accordance with blueprints designed by Leningrad engineers. More than 1,000 Vietnamese youths of both sexes who previously graduated from Leningrad universities are now working in their own country. Many machines bearing the brands of Leningrad factories can often be found in Vietnamese factories.

The sisterhood between Leningrad and Ho Chi Minh City will certainly help expand the relations between the working people of these two cities. On the one hand, it is a city that is connected with Lenin's life and work. On the other hand, it is a city bearing the name of Comrade Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam's first communist. The sisterhood between these two cities will certainly have a profound political significance.

During the Soviet delegation's visit to Vietnam, the Vietnamese press often stressed the significance of the Soviet Union's friendship for consolidating Vietnam's position in the international arena. Currently, a number of Soviet social organizations have issued statements supporting Vietnam's stand on the Vietnam-Cambodia border issue. The Soviet people are well aware of Vietnam's measures aimed at settling this problem through negotiations. Expressing his opinion in Ho Chi Minh City, Comrade Romanov stressed: We declare that the Soviet Union supports the constructive initiatives made by our Vietnamese friends.

The Soviet delegation's visit to Vietnam has once again manifested the durability of the friendship binding the peoples of our two countries. Speaking at a meeting held in honor of the Soviet delegation in Ho Chi Minh City, Comrade Vo Van Kiet said: We share the same will and the same goal. We unite in struggle and in work.

1973 LAO PEACE AGREEMENT COMMEMORATED

LD231633Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Andrey Krushinskiy commentary: "Tested by Time"]

[Text] On 21 February 1973, representatives of the patriotic forces of Laos and the Vientiane administration signed an agreement to restore peace and achieve national concord in Laos. Thai document provided for a cessation of all military operations, the creation of a government coalition and the withdrawal of foreign military personnel from Lao territory.

The signing of the agreement was an important victory for the Lao people headed by their militant vanguard, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], which skillfully combined methods of armed struggle with active operation on the political and diplomatic fronts. In winning the opportunity to independently decide their internal affairs without outside interference in accordance with national aspirations, the LAO people brought about the final capitulation of the forces of internal reaction and the dissolution of the monarchy. The formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on 2 December 1975 was the culmination of the sociodemocratic revolution in that country and represented the beginning of socialist building.

The agreement on restoring peace and achieving national concord in Laos--an agreement which liquidated a dangerous hotbed of war--was also an important contribution to the consolidation of peace in Indochina and throughout Southeast Asia. Laos today has a high international reputation. Pursuing a consistent policy of peace and mutually beneficial cooperation, the LPDR is striving to establish genuine neighborly relations with all the states of that region. The mutual relations established between Laos and Vietnam are a good example of mutual respect and fraternal solidarity. The treaty on friendship and cooperation between them as well as the treaty on defining national borders were highly praised by the world public.

The restoration of peace reached 5 years ago in Laos dealt a serious blow to the intrigues of world imperialism which, acting in accordance with the "divide and rule" principle, is striving to sow dissension everywhere and stir up military conflicts in various regions.

The bankruptcy of imperialist policy toward Laos, the victory of the national democratic revolution and the cohesion of the people around the creative program of the LPDR have all helped to advance the LPDR in the struggle for socialism, national independence and peace.

JAPANESE DECISION TO ALLOW NUCLEAR WEAPONS CRITICIZED

LD251930Y Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 25, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin reports:

The Japanese Government, the newspaper YOMIURI reports, has taken a decision on a "constitutionality" of nuclear weapons. It has announced that "Japan's constitution does not prohibit the possession of tactical nuclear weapons in defensive aims."

The intention to legalize nuclear weapons in Japan is a blunt concession to the military and the military-industrial complex, which intensively press for an unlimited build-up of the war potential. Japan's defence agency and military industrialists, inspired by connivance of the authorities, demand a further build-up of the combat might of the Japanese Armed Forces, ever new allocations for these purposes. The appetites of the Japanese generals and "death merchants" have gone so far that the representative of Japan's Defence Agency K. Ito, speaking from the parliament's rostrum a few days ago, called for nuclear weapons to be operational with the Self-Defence Forces. The government has associated itself with this dangerous demand, as it is clear from the YOMIURI'S report.

This is a qualitatively new stage in remilitarization of the country. Japan already possesses a mighty military machine, and the attempts are now being made to equip it with weapons of mass destruction.

The military's plans run counter to the Japanese Constitution. Its ninth article says that the Japanese people renounces war forever, and also renounces the threat or use of armed force as a means of settling international disputes, and that never in the future land, naval and air forces will be created, just as other means of warfare.

In Japan people know too well what atomic bomb means. This is why the progressive forces of the country are resolutely against the stepping up of military preparations, they resolutely stand for prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The Japanese people, who are the first in the world to have experienced the horrors of atomic bombings, have been engaged in persistent struggle against nuclear weapons for more than 30 years, a TASS correspondent has been told by Toru Kobayshi, deputy chairman of the Japanese Peace Committee. All types of this monstrous weapons should be fully banned.

AID TO JAPANESE MONOPOLIES WILL TRIGGER UNEMPLOYMENT

LD261924Y Moscow TASS in English 1859 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, February 26, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko writes:

The Japanese cabinet approved a bill on "special measures in industries experiencing crisis." The bill allows to create "antidepression cartels" aimed at reducing output and eliminating excessive production facilities in four leading industries--steel smelting, ship building, aluminum and textile. Also envisaged is the possibility of creating such cartels in other industries, too. The government wants to allocate this year more than 100 billion yen for rendering such aid to the monopolies. The decision, adopted in obviation of existing anti-monopoly laws, is excused by the authorities by the need for measures to help these branches of Japanese industry to overcome their deep crisis.

The main goal of the bill, drawn up on the demands of the monopolies, is the desire to the biggest concerns to overcome the protracted economic depression at the expense of the working people and weaker competitors, and to strengthen their positions on foreign markets, points out the press in Tokyo. The creation of these cartels will result in the actual division of the domestic market, by artificially creating a shortage of commodities and a further soaring of prices.

The biggest steel smelting and textile firms agreed to reduce the output by 20-30 per cent even before the bill is approved by parliament. Their example will be shortly followed by the biggest ship-building companies.

The paper Tokyo SHIMBUN writes that these enterprises employ every fifth worker in the manufacturing industry. This is why the further curtailment of production and the closure of "redundant" enterprises will inevitably lead to higher unemployment in the country. In the past year, for example, some 20,000 people were dismissed from enterprises of the steel industry, 17,000 in the textile, more than 12,000 in the ship-building industry. This year the ship-building and textile companies alone plan the dismissal of more than 35,000 workers and employees.

VISIT OF JAPANESE BUSINESS DELEGATION REVIEWED

OW270208Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 25 Feb 78 OW

[Text] A group of Japanese business leaders representing firms engaged in coastal trade with the USSR, including Choji, Shinten Jitsugyo, Tokyo Maruichi, Toho Bussan, Shinsui Boeki and others, left for home on 23 February after concluding a tour of the Soviet Far Eastern region. The group stayed in the region for 2 weeks, holding talks with Soviet business representatives in Khabarovsk and Nakhodka on further development of coastal trade and the organization of Japanese (?exhibitions) and fairs in the USSR.

Eiichi Miyama, managing director of Toho Bussan and head of the group, said: [begin recording] "This is our second visit here. Our group, consisting of Japanese firms engaged in coastal trade with the USSR, first visited this region last year. This time we visited Khabarovsk and Nakhodka. Since we do business with the people of the maritime and Khabarovsk provinces, we discussed various problems with officials of the (?chambers of commerce) and other responsible people in these two provinces. Our discussions were conducted in a very friendly and sincere atmosphere. We cannot tell if those discussions will produce immediate results. It is my feeling that there will be no (?great changes) for the time being. Nevertheless, we learned more about the situation here and at the same time tried to have people here better understand our situation. We will make further efforts to expand our trade. We wish to further develop coastal trade in the future. [end recording]

U.S.-JAPAN MILITARY ALLIANCE DAMAGES SOUTH KOREA

SK250220Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 24 Feb 78 SK

[Moscow Radio Commentator (Yasnev): "On the South Korean Situation"]

[Text] There is nothing veiled in the statement by John Vessey, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, that the United States will preserve the capacity to reintroduce its ground forces into South Korea. This remark by Vessey, in an interview with the KOREA HERALD, shows once again that U.S. troops are not withdrawing from the Korean Peninsula.

The much discussed withdrawal of U.S. ground troop units from South Korea means a partial readjustment of roles between the United States and the Seoul regime and the modernization of U.S. forces in South Korea. This means nothing except that the United States is strengthening its air force in South Korea and the Seoul regime its ground troop units.

As was reported, the Pentagon plans to dispatch 12 F-4 fighters to South Korea in the next several months to reinforce the three aviation units already deployed there which have such fighters. Within the next 5 years, the U.S. Government plans to provide the Seoul regime with credits and arms worth $2 billion.

The Pentagon also plans to use the trianglar military alliance among Washington, Seoul, and Tokyo, which is now being formed, for its strategic purposes. One of the U.S. imperialists' major Far Eastern base areas has been provided in South Korea with the aim of interfering in the Korean people's internal affairs.

What particularly draws our attention is, that through the above military cooperation, the Pentagon is taking advantage of Japan's strong expansionist and militarist moods. Japanese tycoons have amassed fortunes through South Korea's militarization and (?attempting) to further control the South Korean economy. It is not difficult to say what this will bring to South Korea. This will surely result in further economic subjugation to foreign capitalists and the further stepping up of militarization. The militarization that is being intensified in this area strains the situation on the Korean Peninsula. This runs counter to the interests of the Asian people who are struggling for the consolidation of peace and security and reduction of international tension.

DPRK TECHNICIANS VISIT SOVIET ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER

SK180250Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1130 GMT 17 Feb 78 SK

[Excerpts] A committee meeting of representatives of the 11 socialist countries that are members of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research was held in Dubna near Moscow. The committee is the supreme organ of the Dubna International Science Center. Among the participants at the meeting was a delegation of Korean technicians led by Comrade Pak Kwan-u, vice chairman of the DPRK State Atomic Energy Committee [Wonjaryok Gukka Wiwonhoe]. The DPRK has been a member of this international physics center (?for the past 20 years).

Korean engineers and physicists, along with Soviet scholars and technicians of socialist countries, are studying atomic nuclear physics, exploring ways to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

During its stay in Dubna, the DPRK technicians familiarized themselves with the institute's experimental work. There was a meeting between Bogolyubov, director of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, and the DPRK delegates, during which they discussed such issues as the Korean scholar's participation in the institute's work and the prospects for future cooperation between the DPRK State Atomic Energy Committee and the Dubna Joint Institute for Nuclear Research.

BREZHNEV CHAIRS SESSION OF SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM

LD241552Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a routine session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was held in the Kremlin today.

Before the start of the session, the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium congratulated Leonid Ilich Brezhnev warmly and cordially on being awarded the country's highest military order, the Order of Victory, and wished him sound health and further successes in the many aspects of his fruitful work for the sake of the great ideals of communism.

The session examined a number of important questions of state life connected with the implementation by the USSR Supreme Soviet and its Presidium of the tasks arising from the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and from the new Constitution of the USSR.

Importance of Deputies Proposals

A report on the results of the scrutiny of the proposals and observations made by the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies during the extraordinary seventh session while discussing the USSR Constitution was presented by Comrade Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. He pointed out that the necessary measures were being taken on the proposals and observations made by USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. The USSR Council of Ministers is coordinating and guiding this work and exercising permanent supervision over it.

Comrade Kosygin dwelt on some of the proposals and observations made by deputies, and talked about what has been done to put them into practice. We proceed, he emphasized, from the standpoint that all our organs must carefully measure their work against the exacting requirements of the basic law of the state, and must attempt to insure that the important tasks which have arisen for them in connection with the adoption of the Constitution are fulfilled in the best possible way.

Speaking on this matter, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: From the memorandum presented and read by Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, one can see clearly how much useful work is planned on the application of the deputies' proposals. This is a matter of fundamental importance since the proposals at issue, in essence, express the interests of millions of Soviet people and their deep-seated concern for the successful development of our society. This places special responsibility on all the organs which have to implement the proposals made. The discussion at this presidium session of the report of the USSR Council of Ministers is a logical continuation of the efforts to develop and improve the supervisory functions of the supreme organ of power as required by the provisions of the new Constitution.

I have no doubt, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev continued, that this direction in the Supreme Soviet's work--which is, by the way, being developed further--is also very useful for the ministries and departments themselves, and for the government as a whole. And that is understandable. After all, be it a matter of a Supreme Soviet session, a session of the Presidium or of a standing commission, each time many deputies are involved in preparing the matter. They are specialists in their own field--major party officials, economic managers, people who know life well. And their advice, their suggestions are very important and valuable. They see the business of management from the inside, so to speak--from the spot in their production collectives.

There is yet another important aspect to this matter--the fact that the development of the Soviets' supervisory functions is one of the major reserves for improving our representation system and for developing in depth the democratic nature of the socialist society. I think that the positive experience we have already accumulated and the nature of the interaction between the organs of authority and of government must be reflected and enshrined in the new laws, too, which we are shortly to examine. I have in mind first of all, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, the law on the Council of Ministers and the regulations of the Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium adopted a decision on the question examined.

Belorussian Experience Examined

Comrade Polyakov, chairman of the Presidium of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet, reported to the Presidium on the manner in which soviets of people's deputies in the Belorussian SSR work on the electors' mandates. It was noted at the session that the soviets of people's deputies in the Belorussian SSR, under the guidance of the party organs, are working actively to implement the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the tasks of the 10th 5-Year-Plan and to apply the USSR Constitution. In the organizational work of the republic's soviets, an important place is occupied by matters connected with the implementation of the electors' mandates, which express the vital concerns of the population and the specific interests of both individual groups of workers and of society as a whole. A positive experience of work with the electors' mandates has been accumulated in the republic. Mandates were accepted at preelectoral rallies, and at meetings between electors and their candidates for election as deputies. Measures were passed at sessions of the soviets of people's deputies to implement the mandates, and the soviets are implementing the measures necessary to seek out the material resources for the fulfillment of the mandates.

USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Klochkova and Presidium member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Zlobin, who took part in the preparation of the subject, spoke in the debate.

Summing up the discussion, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev pointed out that the comrades who had spoken discussed in considerable detail the manner in which the Belorussian soviets worked with electors' mandates. I would like to single out a few points, he said. The question of mandates was not chosen fortuitously. The mandates are a vivid manifestation of our democracy--democracy in deeds, not words, a democracy that is both effective and realistic. The mandates express the concerns of the working people for the deeds of their state and for public interests. And we have no right to lose these grains of people's initiatives.

It is also important, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev emphasized, to consider that well-organized work with mandates contains an educational potential of great power. The discussion of the proposals put forward and the sometimes difficult process of selection of mandates for fulfillment--all this helps to develop in Soviet people the capacity to think in a statesmanlike way. Of course, it is important to present matters correctly. And it is here that the Belorussian experience is interesting in that due attention is being paid to work with mandates and the requisite emphasis is being attached to it. Any initiative--even a good one--can be extinguished unless it receives support and is backed up by practical action. Of course, it is not simple to fulfill mandates. It often takes a good deal of trouble. Not infrequently the electors' mandates introduce amendments to our plans. But nonetheless, it is completely necessary to do this work, and to do it more fully and with greater quality.

A few words about the legislative act on the order of examination and fulfillment of the electors' mandates, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev continued. As you know, provision for the elaboration of that document is made in our plans for legislative work. I think that its adoption will permit work with mandates to be done on a more planned basis and will insure that all organs of state and public organizations take part in it. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that a law of union status can hardly reflect all the diversity of established practice. It appears that the fundamental principles of work with mandates should be developed and specifically defined in the republic legislation.

In conclusion, Comrade Brezhnev expressed confidence that the Soviets will derive great use from the experience of the Belorussian work. We shall continue, he said, to show the entire union the best models of soviet work and to help the new aspects which are everywhere asserting themselves in state practice.

Having approved the positive experience of the work by soviets of people's deputies in the Belorussian SSR with electors' mandates, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the decision it adopted, instructed the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the local soviets of people's deputies of Belorussia to adopt measures for the further improvement of the work of state organs, enterprises, institutions and organizations in examining and fulfilling mandates, and to eliminate the shortcomings which exist in this matter. The Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of union republics and local soviets of people's deputies are advised, guided by the USSR Constitution and applying the positive experience of the Belorussian soviets, to insure a further enhancement of the standard of work with the electors' mandates. Ministries and departments and heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations are instructed to pay constant attention to work on the examination and fulfillment of the electors' mandates relevant to their sphere of activity.

Brezhnev on Relations With U.S.

The Presidium discussed the results of the visit of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to the United States. A report on the work of the delegation was read by Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He told of his meetings in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress in the course of which a wide range of problems involving the current international situation and bilateral Soviet-American relations was discussed. Consideration was given to the problem of the strategic offensive arms limitation agreement, ending the arms race and the situation in the Near East, in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet gave a precise and clear exposition of the Soviet Union's position regarding the conclusion of a new strategic offensive arms limitation agreement and showed the significance of this agreement for relations between the two countries and for advancing on a wide range of disarmament matters. The delegation drew attention to the fact that the common task of all parliaments which take account of the will of the electors is to oppose the enemies of detente and disarmament.

Comrade Pukhova, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who was a member of the delegation, also spoke on this question.

Summing up the results of the discussion of the question, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: The visits abroad by delegations of our country's supreme organ of power and the development of contacts with parliamentarians and statesmen of other countries play an important part in the USSR's foreign policy activity. We arrange such contacts with U.S. Congress too, and they are indisputably of considerable significance. As can be seen from the delegation's report, Comrade Ponomarev and our other comrades did useful work in the United States. At the foundation of our country's relations with the United States, as is known, lies a whole series of agreements and understandings which have been reached over the past several years as a result of summit talks. Opportunities for intensifying and expanding cooperation between the USSR and the United States have been created.

But today, unfortunately, one must conclude that the road to this cooperation is still cluttered with all kinds of obstacles. They are created by forces that are not interested in goodneighborly relations between the USSR and the United States or in the relaxation of international tension as a whole. How is this expressed in practice? Let us take as an example the negotiations on the limitation of strategic offensive arms. It has proved possible to reach noticeable progress. But at the same time it is clear that certain people in the United States now want to slow down the course of these negotiations and prevent their successful conclusion. We have repeatedly, in various forms, made our position known to the White House and the American Congress, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev noted. It is clear, consistent and definite. I shall not repeat it here. I would just like to stress once again that we favor the most rapid conclusion of the negotiations on principles of equal security. [Moscow TASS in English 1558 GMT on 24 February carries a report on Brezhnev's remarks on Soviet-U.S. relations which is identical to this report except that it renders the end of the preceding sentence: "...on principles of equal and undiminished security."]

After signing a new treaty on strategic arms limitation, it will be possible to go over to the next stage. This would be a real breakthrough toward military detente. We would like to hope that responsible statesmen in the United States will realize how much is at stake.

Then there is another negative circumstance. I have in mind the plans to produce neutron weapons and deploy them in Europe. The implementation of such plans, which greatly attract warmongering circles in the United States, would considerably complicate the situation. The Soviet proposal for mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons is well known. There is only one alternative to a renunciation of the production of this weapon: a new qualitative leap in the lethal arms race. It is impossible not to see this.

An element not without importance in Soviet-American relations is our economic and scientific-technical cooperation, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev continued. However, here too, we are far from having overcome all the artificially created difficulties. They are mainly connected with the decisions of the U.S. Congress which we justly regard as an attempt to interfere in our affairs.

In other words, comrades, a period has now been reached in Soviet-American relations when it is necessary to devote new efforts to give dynamism to these relations, to give them a more constructive nature. In this matter, of course, a part could be played by the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress. The Supreme Soviet delegation, on our instructions, invited a delegation of the U.S. Congress to come to the USSR on a return visit. This is a good thing. We have already received such delegations, and we see the use of them.

In conclusion, comrades, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, I would like to stress once again that we look upon Soviet-American relations as an important element in the overall international course of the Soviet state, the course for consolidation of peace, for ending the arms race and for the development of equal rights and mutually beneficial cooperation among states.

Having approved the work done in the United States by the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Presidium noted in its decision that contacts between the Supreme Soviet and the Congress are an important factor in promoting the development of cooperation between our countries in the interests of the Soviet and American peoples, in the deepening of detente and the strengthening of international peace and security. The invitation for the Senate and the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress to send delegations to the USSR on an official visit was confirmed.

Supreme Soviet Plan for 1978

The meeting of the Presidium discussed the question of the plan for the main measures to be carried out in the Supreme Soviet in 1978. A report was delivered by Comrade Kuznetsov, whose speech described the plan. It was stressed that the plan was drafted on the basis of the proposals and principles of the USSR Constitution and the tasks set for the USSR Supreme Soviet and its organs by the plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee and by Comrade Brezhnev.

A report on the plan for the work of the permanent commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet for 1978 was delievered by Comrade Georgadze, secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium took account of the plans and recommended that the permanent commissions, during their preparations for discussing the questions, pay special attention to the implementation of the demands of the USSR Constitution, to raising the efficiency of social production and the quality of work, and to the further strengthening of socialist legality and state discipline.

The meeting of the Presidium discussed certain other questions. Comrades Vatchenko, Grishin, Kunayev, Masherov, Romanov, Strautmanis, Khalilov and representatives of departments also took part in the discussion.

KOMMUNIST REVIEW BREZHNEV BOOK ON CPSU Activities

LD241350Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0733 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--KOMMUNIST, journal of the CPSU Central Committee, (in issue no. 3) appraises highly the book by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Questions Concerning the Development of the Political System of Soviet Society [Voprosy Razvitiya Politicheskoy Sistemy Sovetskogo Obshchestva]. It sums up the results of the enormous theoretical, organizational and ideological-political activity of the party of Lenin from November 1964 through October 1977 when the new USSR Constitution was adopted.

"Among the most important contributions of the CPSU to Marxist-Leninist theory is the scientific concept worked out jointly in recent years with other fraternal parties of advanced socialist society as a logical and historically essential stage in the establishment of the communist socioeconomic formation and the state structure corresponding to this stage," the journal notes. "The political basis of our state consists of the soviets of people's deputies."

"Among the materials making up the collection," KOMMUNIST goes on, "there is a detailed exposition of ways of raising the effectiveness of the activities of the Soviet state and its bodies: the further strengthening of ties with the masses, democratization of the work of the soviets, introduction of scientific methods in controlling the economy and culture, constant growth of the authority of Soviet law, improvement of legislation, fuller implementation of the requirements of the Leninist style, control and checking of the execution of decisions adopted, and a well-thought-out policy on cadres. All of these conclusions respond to the spirit and the letter of the 1977 Constitution and are implemented in everyday practice in the soviets' work."

"The works of Leonid Brezhnev reflect widely all the richness of the democratic organization of social life in the conditions of advanced socialism. The strengthening and perfecting of the socialist state of the whole people is proceeding in close link with the development of other, nonstate forms of socialist democracy."

"Bourgeois and revisionist propaganda ties one of its chief considerations to the propagation of a conception of democracy, personal freedom and human rights which is distorted and hostile to the ideals and cause of communism," the review notes. "Leonid Brezhnev's speeches convincingly explain the class meaning of these concepts and reveal the falsity and ill-intentioned nature of the anti-Soviet, anticommunist propaganda campaigns which have been carried out on a mass scale."

The book Questions Concerning the Development of the Political System of Soviet Society gathers together the creative conclusions of the party and shows the process by which they are worked out as new historical experience is accumulated by the party and the whole people, and as true, scientifically based answers are found to the complicated questions which time itself and the very course of history pose to the advanced socialist society in the USSR and to the CPSU. This gives the book even greater value and makes it an irreplaceable aid both in studying the large complex of problems of scientific communism and in mastering by the creative method the profound party and revolutionary Marxist-Leninist theory," the review stresses in conclusion.

SHCHERBITSKIY BOOK ON PARTY LEADERSHIP PUBLISHED IN KIEV

AU211055Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 18 Feb 78 AU

[Text] The Ukrainian Political Publishing House has issued a book by Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Let Us Master the Leninist Style of Work, devoted to one of the most topical problems concerning party leadership at the present stage. Comrade Shcherbitskiy's book uses rich factual materials and specific examples to show the multiform experience of the republic's party organizations in mastering the Leninist style, improving the forms and methods of party and state activity. In its basic chapters the book highlights questions concerning a scientific attitude to the practice of party activity, the consolidation of ties with the masses, the promotion of a businesslike spirit, fostering initiative and creativity in the masses, collectivity in party leadership and individual responsibility, criticism and self-criticism as a tested method for improving the state of affairs and the selection and education of cadres. The book will have mass circulation.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

MOSCOW RADIO AGRICULTURAL REPORTS FOR 21-25 FEBRUARY

LD260430 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 21 February reports that another round of snow retention work is beginning in 15 of Kazakhstan's 19 oblasts. The radio says that so far snow retention work has been carried out on 30 million hectares throughout the republic.

On 24 February the radio says that the spring top dressing of winter wheat has begun throughout the southern parts of the Soviet Union. The report adds that winter wheat has survived the winter well and is in "a good and satisfactory condition." Mass work to apply mineral fertilizers in all areas of the country sown to winter crops will soon be underway, the radio concludes. In another report in the same broadcast, the radio says that the RSFSR Ministry of Agriculture's plans for the use of chemical fertilizers include the top dressing of 19 million hectares of winter crops throughout the republic.

Moscow Radio reports on 25 February that selective harrowing has begun in southern Kazakhstan, and farmers in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast are engaged in snow retention work. The same broadcast says that preparations for sowing spring crops are coming to an end and sowing is beginning in the Tuva Valley area where 250,000 hectares have been allocated to grain crops. The same broadcast also carries a report saying that Saratovskaya Oblast, in the RSFSR, has received seeds for the entire spring sowing area, which amounts to 5 million hectares. The report adds that 96 percent of the seeds are first or second class.

The radio says the same day that spring work, including the sowing of early crops, has begun almost a month earlier than usual in the Checheno-Ingushskaya Autonomous Republic in the RSFSR. Snow retention work has been carried out on more than 3 million hectares in the Tatarskaya Autonomous Republic, and the work has been repeated in many areas. In the Adygeyskaya Autonomous Oblast, also in the RSFSR, the rice-growing area has been expanded by 2,000 hectares and now stands at over 13,000 hectares.

The radio also on 25 February carries an agricultural progress report on the Ukraine. It says that the spreading of mineral and organic fertilizers has begun on fields in the southern part of the republic. Spring grain crops will cover about 7 million hectares in the republic this year, and all the necessary seeds have been prepared. The report adds that sowing and cultivating machinery has been fully overhauled, with 90 percent of the tractors now ready for work.

CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS AGRONOMIST ON AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

LD260431 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 25 February carries a correspondent's interview with agronomist Zabaznyy on agricultural work throughout the Soviet Union. The date of the interview is not given. Zabaznyy begins by saying that in the southern areas of the Central Asian republics, the Transcaucasus, the northern Caucasus and the Ukraine, aerial top dressing with mineral fertilizers is underway and a few farms have performed selective presowing tilling and early sowing. This work will become much more widespread soon.

Competition for a record harvest this year began last autumn when fallow was plowed up on 114 million hectares, and grain crops have been sown on 37 million hectares, he says. In the drier areas of the country snow retention work continues. For instance, in Kazakhstan, where the grain harvest depends largely on moisture reserves in the soil, snow retention has been carried out on over 27 million hectares, and it is now being undertaken for the second time.

Great efforts are being made to apply as much organic fertilizer as possible, Zabaznyy continues. In January more than 150 million tons were applied, which is considerably more than in the same period last year. This work is going particularly well in the Ukraine where special teams have been formed on many farms.

In answer to a question about seed supplies, he says that farms are fully supplied with seeds for grain crops to meet sowing plans and there are quantities to spare. State breeding establishments are checking quality, and by the beginning of February more than 96 percent were in condition. Farms are now completing seed preparation prior to sowing. Such seed treatment in the Nonchernozem Zone, for instance, will increase grain yields by three or four quintals per hectare.

Answering a question about the progress of machinery servicing, Zabaznyy says that this is proceeding considerably better than in recent years. Some oblasts--Rostovskaya, Minskaya and Odesskaya, for example--have already completed work on preparing machinery for the spring. Much of this work is being done on the basis of complex team cooperation, he concludes.

BRIEFS

UKRAINIAN GRAIN OUTPUT--Problems involving increased grain output were closely studied at the republic-level scientific-production conference held in Kiev 24-25 February. The speakers pointed out that the full satisfaction of the country's needs for grain is of primary importance. The Ukraine is expected to bring its grain output to 52-53 million tons in the nearest future, and later on to 60 million tons. The need to insure grain yields of 30-31 quintals per hectare in the nearest future was emphasized. Recommendations on how to increase grain production at the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes in 1978 and following years were drawn up. The conference was addressed by Borisenko, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and secretary. Attending the conference were Pogrebnyak, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers; Kovalenko, CPSU Central Committee Agricultural Department chief; Ukrainian ministers Kolomiyets, Garkusha and Shmatolyan; Ukrainian Gosplan Deputy Chairman Krivosheyev; and Kuzmenko, Presidium chairman of the southern branch of the All-Union Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 78 AU]

NEW LASER SYSTEM FOR AIRCRAFT TAKEOFF, LANDING

LD242304Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2100 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A laser system for airliner landing and takeoff is being tested in the Soviet Union. The system is called "Glissada," which is the Russian term for the glide path followed by an aircraft as it descends for landing. A member of our staff now explains the new system:

The system developed by Soviet engineers holds out the promise of solving a technical problem that has been baffling the specialists of all the aviation powers. Dozens of various systems have been proposed to enable airliners to make airflights in any weather. But these have solved the problem only partly. Most important of all they have failed to meet present-day stringent requirements for flight safety in difficult weather conditions. As a result the problem of all-weather airline traffic has now been solved for all flight elements except takeoff and landing.

There are today two approaches to the problem of assuring safe takeoff and landing in bad weather. One of these consists in developing special navigation aids for all aircraft. The obstacle here is the big weight of such systems. The other trend is the most promising of all and is attracting much interest among experts in other countries. It's being patented in 16 countries including the United States, France, Federal Germany and Japan.

How does "Glissada" work? This question was answered by its chief designer, Professor (Igor Berezhnoy).

The professor said that the general approach of the aircraft to the airport where it is to make a landing is today reliably assured by radio navigation aids. But at the final stage of the flight the pilot has to see the ground. He has to know exactly what the remaining distance is to the start of the runway and what the plane's position is in respect to that runway. The new system enables the pilot, in any weather without any additional aids, to find his airfield and the landing strip. This works as follows:

A few dozen kilometers from the airfield the pilot sees three red laser beams. They are motionless like pillars over the airfield and pierce any cloud-cover. As the plane approaches nearer he discerns several more beams: two red beams along the runway clearly indicate its boundaries and a third runs directly down its middle. It is this axial beam that the plane has to follow to land. The system easily enables the pilot to detect even a half meter deviation from course.

Well, according to present-day technical requirements that assures a high precision landing. Another asset of the laser system is its simplicity for the pilot. During the testing of the system pilots of different types of airliners have made more than 3,000 landing approaches, at night, in fog, in rain and in blizzards. Invariably the laser beams guided the planes to their runway. The laser system requires practically no additional training of pilots nor do the planes require any additional equipment. Furthermore the cost of the system and its installation and maintenance are but a fraction of the cost of present-day radio systems and lighting equipment of airports. And above all the system is highly reliable.

RADIO NOTES USE OF 'COSMIC TECHNOLOGY' ONBOARD SALYUT-6

ID242250Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2100 GMT 23 Feb 78 ID

[(Yuriy Kolitsov) commentary]

[Text] For over 2 months, the crew of the Soviet scientific orbital station Salyut-6 have been working in outer space. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are carrying out an extensive research program. It includes technological experiments in welding metals. Here is (Yuriy Kolitsov), a scientific worker of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to tell you about these experiments.

The appearance of a new field in science and technology, cosmic technology, is linked with the desire to make use of the unique conditions of space flights. I have in mind above all, weightlessness and a profound vacuum. Thanks to these factors it's easy to do things in space that on earth are impossible, or that need enormous effort to do. Great hopes are pinned on space technology, for example, by the makers of miniature semiconductor devices which have occupied a leading place in electronics. The almost complete absence in space of alien gasses is the dream of technologists who develop pure and superpure substances.

Cosmic technology is only just getting on its feet. It was pioneered by the crews of the Soviet orbital station Salyut-5, the American Skylab station and by the Soviet Soyuz and the American Apollo spacecraft which linked up in 1975. The remote control electric furnace "Splav" is now operating on the Salyut-6 orbital station. It weighs 23 kilograms. The furnace can produce a temperature of up to 1,000 degrees above zero centigrade. On earth similar furnaces are usually very big. Their dimensions are determined by powerful heat insulation. The makers of the space furnace resolve this problem by making use of the best insulation material of all, a vacuum. The furnace, with its thin metallic walls, is placed in the station's docking chamber. All the processes are carried out by a program fed into the electronic computer system for controlling the furnace. The furnace is started automatically. The planned temperature is reached and maintained for the required time and then stopped.

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have already carried our experiments in making alloys of aluminum and tungsten, of molybdenum and gallium and also semiconductor materials. They will get alloys of glass and metal which is very complicated or well-nigh impossible to get on earth. This problem is of interest to opticians. The experiments on board the Salyut-6 station are determining the prospects for the new trend in technology. It's quite possible that cosmonauts Romanenko and Grechko, together with the experts who have developed the Splav furnace, the other apparatus and the scientific program of experiments on Salyut-6, are beginning a new stage in the development of space technology, the technology of tomorrow.

CONTINUING FLIGHT OF SALYUT-6-Soyuz-27 Outlined

ID251200Y Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 25 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, February 25, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the flight control centre:

Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have now been in space flight for 11 weeks. During the entire long period of work in the near-earth orbit the members of the crew of the Soviet orbital station Salyut-6 have been in good health and high efficiency. Yesterday's all-round medical check-up of the cosmonauts reaffirmed once again that the indices of the cardio-vascular system are practically at a stable level.

The crew began their working day today, as usual, from morning procedures, medical check-up, breakfast and physical exercises. In the first half of the day the cosmonauts have been engaged in preparing scientific equipment and checking the station's systems for planned experiments.

According to reports of the crew and data of telemetric information, the systems aboard Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 complex are functioning normally. The complex continues its flight.

NEWS FROM HOME RELIEVES COSMONAUTS TENSION

LD251621Y Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 25, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov reports from the flight control centre:

This Saturday morning, when Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko completed their 11th week of work in orbit, head of the Soviet centre for cosmonauts' training Air Lieutenant-General Georgiy Beregovoy told a TASS correspondent that the crew's efficiency in such a long flight directly depends on how reasonably the schedule of the day is planned, how successfully loads alternate with rest hours.

But, Beregovoy said, as we have already noticed during the 77 days of arduous work in orbit, the cosmonauts refuse point blank from "pure rest", (but not from sleep, certainly. The task of the psychologists is to unobtrusively offer the crew per every day such an occupation that would not be reminiscent of rest, but would relieve tension. One of such methods, checked in previous long flights in "Salyut" stations, is that several times within the day the crew receive different news from earth which remove from them the feeling of separation from home.

Psychologists believe that the most important for the cosmonauts' high spirits are different news from scientific laboratories which already process the materials of experiments carried out by Romanenko and Grechko, Beregovoy said. There a few dozens of such addresses from where the flight control centre receives information on the processing of data received from orbit. Among them is the Institute of Metallurgy of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the Tartu Institute of Astro-Physics and Physics of the Atmosphere, the Academy of Sciences, the French space research centre in Toulouse, the Institute of Medico-Biological Problems of the USSR's Ministry of Public Health, the state scientific-research and production centre Priroda and many others.

But Beregovoy stressed, the picture of communications between the earth and its two envoys in a space orbit would have been incomplete, had it not been for news from home, from relatives and friends. Once a week the cosmonauts' families come to the room of the group of communications with the crew. Having learnt the latest news from the Starry township, having slightly reprimanded their children for "accidental threes" in school, having praised them for successes on a ski-track, the cosmonauts' spirits grow higher.

COSMONAUTS CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS

LD261342Y Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Flight control centre, February 26 TASS--In accordance with the flight program, the crew of the orbital complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 made the first measurements in the ultraviolet wavelength range with the use of a telescope. These measurements were made with non-cooled receiver. The studies of ultraviolet emission of bright sources when they go beyond the earth's horizon make it possible to obtain the data about the state of the ozone layer of the earth's atmosphere. The correctness of the methods of the adjustment of the telescope and its optical sight in relation to the astroorientation system of the Salyut-6 station has been confirmed during the use of the telescope.

The crew of the space complex yesterday carried out another cycle of tests on the program of the "resonance" experiment. This experiment is conducted for the purpose of determining the dynamic characteristics of the orbital system Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 and the value of loads its withstands. According to the reports of the crew the data of telemetric information, the onboard systems of the space complex function normally. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko feel well.

Astrophysical Experiments Detailed

LD270939Y Moscow TASS in English 0850 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

"Astrophysical Program of Salyut-6"--TASS headline]

[Text] Leningrad, February 27 TASS--Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have begun working aboard the Salyut-6 orbital scientific station with a submillimetre telescope with a mirror diameter of 1.5 metres. It is for the first time that such a big astrophysical instrument has been put into orbit. The receivers of this telescope, equipped with a "factory of sublow temperatures," are practically free of interference in studying the earth's atmosphere as well as more remote objects, such as the sun and constellations.

These experiments aboard the Salyut-6 are of great interest to astronomers and astrophysicits, said Vladimir Krat, the director of Pulkovo observatory, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, (near Leningrad) when asked to comment on the astrophysical program of this mission. He said that earth's atmosphere absorbs the most informative sections of the solar spectrum--radiation in x-ray and ultra-violet bands. This interference can be avoided only by placing apparatus beyond earth's atmosphere.

Astronomical experiments onboard orbital scientific stations have a number of advantages. They enable cosmonauts to select themselves or on recommendation from the earth, the objects and time of observation and to train apparatus on most interesting sections of the stellar sky, the scientist said. The registration of the sun's x-ray radiation is of great scientific and practical value. It helps obtain information on the hottest regions of the solar material, its corona, from which comes fluxes of charged particles called corpuscles. It is corpuscles that determine the character of sun-earth relationship and its multifarious effects on earth--ranging from conditions for radio communication to, as scientists believe, flare-ups of flux, Krat said.

We are looking forward to further observations of distant galaxies and so-called "cold stars" about whose existence we learned thanks to the successes of space astronomy, the scientist said.

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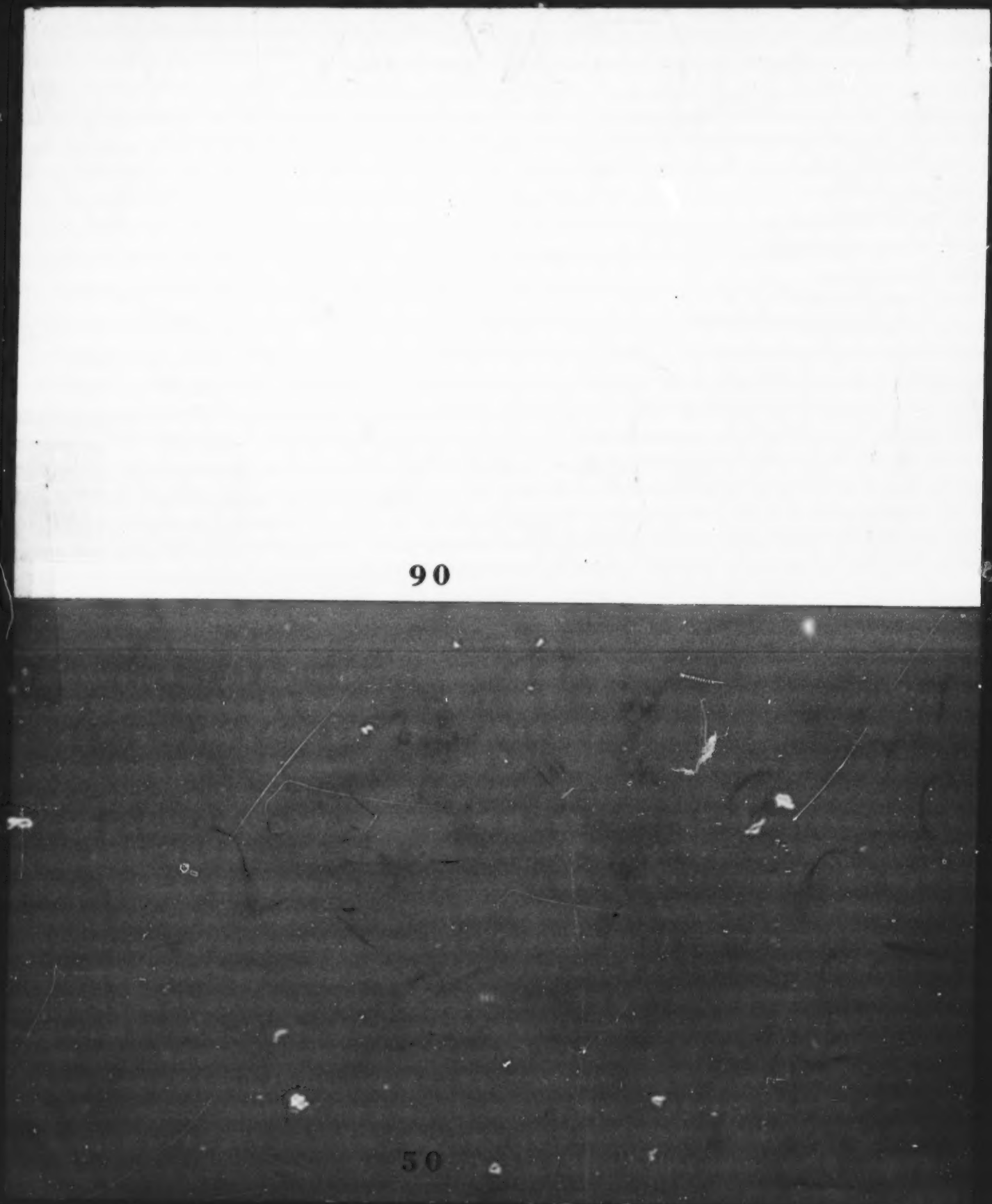
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